

May 5, 2008



TRANSCRIPT
May 5, 2008

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Michael Knapp, President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Phil Andrews, Vice-President
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



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1 Council President Knapp,

2 Good morning everyone. This is usually what it looks like on May 15th, so we thank all
3 of you for coming. We're going to try something a little bit different this year and see
4 how it works. We have tried to consolidate some items of budgets for review onto a
5 reconciliation list, or a Consent Calendar, I'm sorry, a Consent Calendar if you will, to try
6 to accelerate some process which will give us a little bit of opportunity to delve into more
7 deeply some other things. As those of you who generally join us for our Tuesday
8 sessions, the Consent Calendar, Councilmembers can ask questions on the Consent
9 Calendar, so there may be some questions as it relates to some of the items that are
10 here. If they are lengthy detailed questions, then we can pull that item, we've given
11 ourselves time to bring that back later in the week so we can go more in depth. And so I
12 wanted to just lay that out for folks. Also, I wanted to, as we get started, thank many of
13 you who are in attendance for your efforts today to get us to this point. The Committees
14 have now gone through all of their budgets, the budget review, and now brings to the
15 full Council. Many of you have been working on these various budgets for many, many
16 months at this point, and so I thank you for your efforts now. I want to thank my
17 colleagues and their Committee, through their Committee work for what they've brought
18 forward, the reconciliation list, while not insignificant, is far less than what it has been in
19 years past, and I think that everyone has shown a large measure of discretion and
20 judiciousness in their approach to what they've put on the reconciliation list. There are a
21 number of items now that, as Councilmembers proceed during the course of the week,
22 as we look at what other Committees have done to get a better sense of how we begin
23 to take what is in a difficult budget year, what are the Council's priorities and really begin
24 to orient them and allocate resources appropriately, and so I thank everyone for their
25 efforts to date. I wanted to, I had a couple of questions on a couple of the budgets that
26 are very minimal once we get to that point, but I wanted to see if any Councilmembers,
27 well, first of all, let me see if we can have a motion to move the Consent Calendar.

28
29 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
30 So moved.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Moved by Councilmember Trachtenberg.

34
35 Councilmember Ervin,
36 Second.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Seconded by Councilmember Ervin. Comments on the Consent Calendar?
40 Councilmember Floreen.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,



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1 Thank you very much, Mr. President. I actually don't have a comment on the Consent
2 Calendar exactly, but it's about the overall budget and I do think it's very appropriate
3 that we've been given Monopoly money.

4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 Yes, yes.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Is this Monopoly money? It used to be green and it used to be larger. Back when I was
10 a child playing Monopoly.

11
12 Council President Knapp,
13 Well, with the federal government's counterfeiting rules, and they've changed all of the
14 money now, this is consistent with that.

15
16 Councilmember Floreen,
17 Apparently they have. So, it's indeed an omen that we start the budget session with
18 Monopoly money. Because, I don't know about my colleagues, well, I know my
19 colleagues have been out and about in the community just as I have for the past week,
20 talking to people just generally, about issues, and especially listening to them about
21 their concerns, and I have to say, the number one issue that everyone has raised with
22 me is an issue about the economy. It's the cost of everything. It's whether businesses
23 can stay afloat. I've heard of contracts, people not being able to pay their bills, they're
24 not paying their contracts. There are some serious issues out there in the community
25 and it deeply troubles me. And as I looked at the budget, reviewed what the Committees
26 have done and all that, I've got say folks, I really think it's time to bite the bullet in this
27 budget. I really don't think our numbers work. I will remind you that the County
28 Executive's tax supported budget without the accounting gimmicks in it, is about \$3.7
29 billion, a 4.2% increase over last year, and it's funded in part by an average 14.7%,
30 14.7% increase in property taxes. That's despite the fact that state aid is down 0.4%,
31 transfer taxes are down 22%. I really don't think the numbers jive here. Average
32 property tax that's proposed for homes ranges from about 6% for homes valued at
33 317,000, jumps to 9% immediately for homes valued at 377,000, up to 12% for homes
34 valued at 500,000 and on up to an average of 20% for commercial properties, in some
35 cases as much as 40% for some rental properties, based on what our staff determined
36 for us last week. As far as I'm concerned, the tax burden is not tenable. It's particularly
37 not tenable for the average property owner facing a huge range of increased fuel, food,
38 and healthcare costs. Businesses are struggling, and we know that many segments of
39 the economy are down, and to my knowledge, at least, economic forecasts do not
40 predict a quick turnaround. This is a challenge being face throughout the region. We're
41 not alone in this. Our neighbors, I think, are being a lot more realistic. Fairfax just
42 approved a budget increase of 1.03% over last year. The District is looking at a budget
43 increase of 0.7% and Prince George's is looking at a modest 1.3% increase in budget. I
44 really think the budget is way out of line, and I think in today's economy, it is simply not



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1 affordable. I really regret having to say this, but I really don't see any way around it. I
2 truly appreciate the hard work of all of the Committees and what they've done in
3 analyzing the budgets. I know that everyone has put their hearts into trying to limit
4 spending, but I just don't think we've gone far enough, and I'm just as guilty as anybody
5 up here. But our latest tracking sheet shows that we've recommended reductions in
6 agency requests of 54.7 million, not even as much as the County Executive, which were
7 77.3 million, and we put over 36 million on a reconciliation list with no way to pay for that
8 list. I appreciate that there are other accounting devices out there we're looking at, such
9 as reducing our reserve, further delaying our Gasby payments. I will note, they only
10 delay the pain, and in any event, are one-time solutions, and even with them, we don't
11 get anywhere near the ability to address that proposed high property tax increases to
12 any significant degree. So I really think we need to look at longer term answers and the
13 Monopoly money is handy, but I don't think it's going to do the trick. So I offer everyone
14 here a challenge. I would like all agencies to bring back to us budgets that reduce
15 spending by 2% below the County Executive's budget by noon on Friday. This would
16 save us 76 million, and would allow us to reduce the proposed tax increases by a little
17 more than half. Mr. Leggett's budget is currently about \$138 million over the rate of
18 inflation. To keep these taxes at the charter limit, I think we need to cut as much as that.
19 My proposal would still exceed the limit by 62 million, but then at least we could have a
20 real conversation about what's doable. We could take the reserve down, although
21 apparently there's a press conference on why we shouldn't in a few hours. We could, by
22 doing that, we could save another 20 million. We could stretch the benefit payments out
23 further, find us another 11 million. The carbon surtax would get us another 11 million.
24 These are all good ideas, but we would still, even then, be \$20 million over a budget
25 that's already increased by the rate of inflation. I don't know about anybody in this room,
26 but most people are not seeing income increases past that 3.6 amount, period, end of
27 the day. I don't know if my colleagues saw the paper yesterday, but they had, it was a
28 nice story about County residents fighting off foreclosure and trying to stay in their
29 homes. There was a Miss Collins of Gaithersburg and a Ramsey family of Burtonsville,
30 and it's telling that they picked two residents from Montgomery County. These people
31 have knocked themselves out to rearrange their financial situation to stay in their
32 homes. We increase property taxes like this, we could push them over the edge, and I
33 don't think that's where this Council would like to be. So that's my challenge to myself,
34 to my colleagues, and to Finance, and the County agencies. I don't think the proposed
35 budget is sustainable. I think we've done our best on our own, but I don't think it's
36 enough.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Okay. Councilmember Andrews, Council Vice-President Andrews?

40
41 Councilmember Andrews,
42 Thank you Council President Knapp. I have actually a comment about the Consent
43 Calendar, and just one brief comment, which is that I mentioned this during the
44 Operating Budget hearings, and I continue to think that it's true, and that is that I think



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1 there's a large dichotomy between what is, what the expectations are of many folks
2 about the budget, and what is affordable. And I think that's what we're going to have to
3 grapple with over the next couple of weeks is what we can really afford, and what our
4 most important priorities are. On the Consent Calendar, I just want to note the good
5 work done by the public safety agencies that are on the Consent Calendar that are
6 before us today, the Office of the Sheriff, Circuit Court, State's Attorney, the Homeland
7 Security Office, and the Office of Consumer Protection. They're on the Consent
8 Calendar because their budgets were relatively noncontroversial, among the smaller of
9 the Public Safety budgets, and there were not significant issues other than the general
10 issue of affordability, which is a big one, but in terms of the program that was proposed,
11 there was support on the Public Safety Committee for the program that was advocated
12 by the County Executive, and the Committee made very few changes to the program
13 suggested. The MFP Committee is going to be addressing the personnel cost issues
14 this Friday, and that's an across the board issue that needs to be addressed for all
15 agencies, in my view. I do want to also comment on item 37, which is the Non-
16 Departmental Account for the Arts and Humanities Council. I believe the Council has
17 been doing good job. I am going to recuse myself on the appropriation as I did last year
18 for the American Film Institute because my wife does a small amount of freelance work
19 for AFI.

20
21 Council President Knapp,

22 Okay. I had just two comments on the Consent Calendar. One, actually Agenda item
23 15, which is Public, Office of Public Information, which actually isn't budgetary in nature,
24 it's something we need to look at a little more closely. My colleagues, I think, all,
25 everyone does newsletters. We do a lot of e-newsletters. And interestingly, there are
26 databases and everyone's put different lists together and there are ways to kind of
27 capture all of those lists, so if someone from the outside actually signs up for a
28 newsletter, they can all of a sudden end up getting many, many newsletters from
29 County government, and I'm not necessarily sure that the people who are signing up for
30 individual newsletters recognize that they may be inundated with any number of other
31 newsletters. And so, I think it's something that we may need to take back and take a
32 look at before we fill these people's mailboxes with information they weren't necessarily
33 looking for. But I think it's something we need to sit down with the Public Office of Public
34 Information and our Office of Public Information and sit down and make sure we
35 understand what's going on so that we don't end up flooding these folks who thought
36 they were getting one specific piece of information. Then on Agenda item 31, which is
37 Community Use of Public Facilities, in the PHED Committee, we had a series of
38 discussions as it related to maintenance of ball fields and permitting of ball fields, and I
39 just wanted to get some follow-up information, if we could, on fees for ball fields that
40 goes through Community Use of Public Facilities, and have a better understanding of
41 how that correlates with the activities that are undertaken by the Parks Department, to
42 make sure that we can get a sense if there is an increase in fees on this Parks side, do
43 we do a corresponding increase on the Community Use of Public Facilities? Do we take
44 the lead with the Community Use of Public Facilities first? The fees that, for field, or the



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1 permitting fees are very nominal at this point, and yet as we're trying to increase the
2 playing ability of the fields, especially during difficult budget times, that is certainly
3 something that should be considered. We just need to understand the interplay between
4 those two Departments, those two agencies. And those were the only questions I had
5 as it related to the Consent Calendar. I see no other comments from Council
6 colleagues. All in support of the Consent Calendar as moved, please indicate by raising
7 your hand. That is. Okay.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 I'm going to abstain.

11
12 Council President Knapp,
13 Councilmember Leventhal, Councilmember Ervin, Councilmember Berliner, Council
14 Vice-President Andrews, Councilmember Trachtenberg, Councilmember Elrich, and
15 myself voting yes. And Councilmember Floreen abstaining, playing with her Monopoly
16 money. Thank you very much. The Consent Agenda is approved.

17
18 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
19 Counting. She's counting.

20
21 Council President Knapp,
22 Okay. Thank you all very much. We now turn to worksession on, beginning with MFP
23 Committee, Risk Management, then NDA, I guess Risk Management is up first. We'll
24 wait just a minute as all of the many people who are here depart, and as we can switch
25 around. MFP Committee Chair Trachtenberg.

26
27 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
28 Okay. Thank you President Knapp. I thought that it would be wise this morning to pull
29 the following three items out for full Council discussion.

30
31 Council President Knapp,
32 Folks, if you could just keep it down as we're leaving the room so we can get to the next
33 item, I would appreciate it. Please keep the noise to a minimum. Thank you.

34
35 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
36 And we're going to start that discussion with a Risk Management, Division of Risk
37 Management discussion from the Department of Finance. I know we're joined by
38 several folks here this morning, so I'm going to ask you for responses if indeed we have
39 some questions from colleagues, and I specifically picked out this item, because this
40 seems to have generated, over the last few weeks, a great deal of questioning by
41 colleagues and by different staff members. And in effect, the recommendation that the
42 Committee made was to simply approve the Executive's proposal for funding, during our
43 discussions within Committee we talked somewhat about a pilot program which had
44 been implemented between the Division of Risk Management and the Fire and Rescue



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1 Service, again, to improve safety and the success of the pilot that had been
2 implemented. And there had been some discussion, again, this is what's generated
3 questions from colleagues about doing this indeed with the Police Department as well.
4 And the explanation provided to us from Mr. Fleming was simply that the union was
5 asking that this be an issue subject to bargaining, that they did not, at this time, want to
6 make a commitment to such a pilot, and the Committee, last time we met and discussed
7 this, actually asked for a future discussion with the Office of Human Resources and the
8 unions to get a better understanding of why different things, and again specifically such
9 a pilot, would be inappropriate. So that conversation will occur, no doubt, in the autumn,
10 but I wanted to bring it to my colleagues' attention, since that very aspect of our
11 Committee discussion was continually raised as something of significance. Again,
12 there's a good chart on circle 8 of the changes from FY08 to FY09, they're in a table,
13 and the only changes, again, are two new positions to be charged from the County
14 Attorney to Risk Management. One position is an attorney for worker compensation
15 claims support, and the other is an assistant for workers' compensation claim support,
16 so I, at this time, would just ask if there's any questions from colleagues on this item, but
17 I just wanted to summarize, again, what the issues were that, again, within the
18 Committee discussion.

19
20 Jennifer Barrett,

21 I just wanted to point out, County Attorney, also being involved in such a discussion, I
22 did have some conversation with the County Attorney in answer to Mr. Andrews'
23 question at the Committee, yes, it is because of the effects law that these things are
24 bargainable with the police union. I also wanted to point out, however, that given that
25 resistance, my Division Chief, Mr. Fleming, has moved on and found some receptivity
26 with Corrections to doing some of the same, I mean, we believe in this work, we're
27 going to continue doing this work, we're just going to move on to somebody that's
28 receptive to it, and so we intend to keep going, because we believe it's very beneficial to
29 implement these safety programs out in the Departments.

30
31 Council President Knapp,

32 We have a number of questions.

33
34 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

35 Sure.

36
37 Council President Knapp,

38 Councilmember Leventhal.

39
40 Councilmember Leventhal,

41 I do, I have just a couple of questions. I was not, I was not apprised or aware, I mean,
42 obviously I'm not a member of the MFP Committee, so could we get just a simple
43 description here, very briefly, of what the safety program is?
44



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1 Terry Fleming,
2 Good morning. Terry Fleming, Division of Risk Management. We implemented this pilot
3 program of Fire and Rescue, and basically it is a process where we train managers and
4 line staff on safety practices and procedures. We develop a huge list of all the possible
5 corrections that can be made. We benchmark those across the country with the most
6 successful programs, and we come back to the Department and work with staff again to
7 implement best practices and safety.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,
10 And so it's underway in Fire and Rescue, and it's underway in Corrections?

11
12 Terry Fleming,
13 It's been completed in Fire and Rescue. We are working with Corrections and also
14 Liquor Control.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 And the Police Department is saying it should be, the police union is saying it should be
18 subject to effects bargaining?

19
20 Terry Fleming,
21 That's correct.

22
23 Jennifer Barrett,
24 We've run into resistance with police to try to implement these programs there after
25 numerous attempts and memos, they have just resisted doing it. We understand it's
26 union, but my recommendation, you know, is that that conversation needs to happen
27 with OHR and County Attorney on the specifics of that aspect of this. But we believe in
28 these training programs because they're very focused on job skills, abilities, actual
29 actions, and we think it's a really worthwhile program.

30
31 Councilmember Leventhal,
32 Okay. Let me ask about something that may or may not be related. I think most of my
33 colleagues have heard from Jim Grossfeld, he pushed through the Commission on
34 Health proposal on work place safety, and we had a discussion about it in the Health
35 and Human Services Committee. To be candid with you, I don't know that this is a good
36 year to be taking on new programs in County Government, particularly programs that
37 arguably fall under the jurisdiction of State MOSH, but Mr. Grossfeld is a very vigorous
38 advocate, and he's gotten the Metropolitan Washington Council of AFLCIO to strongly
39 support his initiative, and I just wanted to, I know it's in Risk Management now, and I
40 just wondered, where does it stand? What are your thoughts about it? Is it something
41 that we should pursue, or is it something that we ought to say, no, let's not pursue it,
42 let's, it's under the jurisdiction of MOSH, and not our jurisdiction?

43
44 Jennifer Barrett,



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1 Let me just, a quick distinction, the safety programs we're talking about performed by
2 Risk Management are under the purview of Risk Management in terms of safety in
3 Montgomery County government work places and that's what we're focused on, and
4 that is the mission of the Division of Risk Management portion of the Department of
5 Finance. The initiative being proposed by Mr. Grossfeld and others as part of the Health
6 Commission, I believe.

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 It was a, his proposal was endorsed by the County Commission on Health.

10
11 Jennifer Barrett,
12 Does relate to workplace safety at private sector sites off the County work site. We
13 believed initially that there is some Risk Management role in that initiative. We found
14 through time that that's not the case. Risk Management would have the most minor of
15 roles in that we've got some personnel that could provide the training, but this is state
16 responsibility, state training. My understanding is that after review by the Executive
17 administration, there's a decision made to send a letter, and I believe you were
18 signatory to it, and Ms. Ervin too, to the state, I've asked somebody to check recently,
19 and we have not received a response, but I believe the, my understanding is that the
20 administration felt it is a state responsibility, so this is not the time for the County to
21 move into that area. And I think they're waiting for response, and I'm not aware that we
22 have received one yet from the state, so that's where that stands, to the best of my
23 information right now.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,
26 Thank you.

27
28 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
29 Yeah, and I actually would interject at this time that one of the things that we isolated in
30 conversation within the Committee, was the fact that, George, we would like to have a
31 joint Committee discussion about this in the autumn, again around Risk Management,
32 but also occupational medicine, so we'll be revisiting this as a topic. And again, I pulled
33 it this morning so that we would have the opportunity to discuss exactly what you just
34 raised.

35
36 Terry Fleming,
37 If I might add, under state and federal law, it's the responsibility of employers to provide
38 a safe working environment for their employees and that's the duty of every employer.
39 MOSH and OSHA on the federal level are regulatory agencies to, they'll come in and
40 evaluate whether or not you're conducting your business in a safe way, in violation of
41 OSHA or MOSH regulations, and then they can penalize you for that. So they're more
42 the regulation side, as opposed to the employer taking the initiative to keep their
43 employees safe, which is everyone's responsibility.



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1 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
2 Okay. Thank you.

3
4 Council President Knapp,
5 Council Vice-President Andrews.

6
7 Councilmember Andrews,
8 Thank you. Well, I want to thank Chair Trachtenberg for pulling this out and highlighting
9 this issue. It's a very important one, and Terry Fleming of Risk Management has been
10 waving red flags for a number of years about this. I'm very glad that Fire and Rescue
11 has improved their workers' safety performance, reduced injuries on the job, and was
12 recognized at Montgomery's Best a few weeks ago for their achievement. I'm very
13 disappointed that the Fraternal Order of Police has not been receptive so far to
14 participating in this program. You noted that it's the result of the effects of the bargaining
15 law which pertains only to the Police Department. I simply think that it's ludicrous that
16 efforts to reduce job injuries should be bargainable, and I'm very disappointed, and I
17 hope that we can address that or see a change in that outcome, and in the meantime, I
18 hope the Department will go full speed ahead with efforts in other Departments and
19 continue to attempt to persuade the FOP to do what it should be doing.

20
21 Council President Knapp,
22 I just had a question along those lines, and I appreciate the Chair for bringing this out,
23 because I think it is an important issue, when was the last FOP contract renegotiated?
24 Was it last year?

25
26 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
27 Last year.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 Was this item brought up as one of the bargaining items? Was this negotiated on, was
31 this brought up by the County?

32
33 Terry Fleming,
34 We were working with Police at the time, Police Management, but we were still in the
35 process of working with Fire and Rescue at that time, so, in fact, last, I guess last
36 budget cycle, we discussed the issue with Chairwoman Praisner and intended to move
37 on to Police, so it was in that process that we were moving towards Police. We had
38 every indication that it was going to work. We met several times with FOP, with
39 management, and then just as we were ready to begin, we got the word that the FOP
40 would rather bargain the issue.

41
42 Council President Knapp,
43 I mean, I agree with the comments of the Public Safety Committee Chair and Council
44 Vice-President, but I guess the other thing is sometimes we kind of have rules in which



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1 we operate, and we don't necessarily like those rules, but they're there in front of us,
2 and so we kind of ought to work within them. So on the one hand, I don't disagree that
3 we ought to create as safe a work place as we possibly can, but the other token, we
4 have a process by which we actually do bargain items. And to the extent that we knew
5 that this was probably going to be an issue, I mean, it's not a huge shock that they're
6 probably going to push back to make sure that we actually get this on the table to
7 negotiate, it seems to me like it ought to be something we ought to figure out from a
8 strategic perspective that we ought to do it. So I guess that's the part that kind of
9 confuses me is, yeah, we ought to do it and yes, I'd like them to go along but we also
10 know that they will probably push back with exactly that response, and to some extent
11 procedurally they're not necessarily wrong, and so why don't we just make sure we get
12 it in the right process and get it done.

13
14 Jennifer Barrett,
15 Don't want to comment on the.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 Okay, it just seems to me that we ought to try, I mean, I don't necessarily like the
19 process, but it is our process, and so we ought to probably use it.

20
21 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
22 Well.

23
24 Council President Knapp,
25 That's my, I guess, my two cents.

26
27 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
28 Well, the Council President would find it interesting that indeed that process has been
29 raised several times in MFP worksessions, and, again, in the autumn, we're looking to
30 discuss generally the process that is pursued in terms of, in terms of bargaining. But my
31 recollection around the Fire and Rescue program, and again I remember this when I
32 first arrived at the Council a year and a half, is when we were talking within MFP about
33 the pilot program, my recollection is that there were no red flags raised around Police
34 participation, at least not in the initial discussions that we had within the Committee. Am
35 I correct, Mr. Fleming?

36
37 Terry Fleming,
38 Yes, that's correct.

39
40 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
41 Yeah, that it really was only raised within the last six months or so.

42
43 Terry Fleming,
44 Right.



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Councilmember Trachtenberg,

That's what I believe is an accurate description of the series of events. I thank all of you for being here this morning so we could have a little bit of a conversation about the item again, an item of great importance and clearly one that has gone at the interest of some of my colleagues. So I would, again, recommend officially as Chair of the MFP Committee, that we approve the Executive recommended amount, and with that we'll move on to item, the next item on the Agenda.

Council President Knapp,

Seeing no objection, move on to item number 43.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,

Which is a discussion of the Municipal Tax Duplication issue. Again, another one of those issues that is often raised not only within the Committee, but something that gets raised routinely in the community I know as I'm out there meeting with constituents and certainly representatives of our municipalities. The MFP Committee welcomed about a month and a half ago a number of folks that represented municipalities. Again, it was an attempt to start a regular discussion, interaction, and as my colleagues would know, there was a taskforce charged with numerous issues that started meeting back in March of 2007, and it was our initial expectation that they would provide us with a report by the end of April of this year, although a number of issues are still unresolved, and we have been clearly informed over the last few weeks that the final report from this taskforce would not be available, and it is now officially understood that there would be an extension of deadline for the taskforce's report. Again, that deadline stretched to July 31st. I, again, just wanted to pull this item out to indicate to my colleagues that this was the status of the taskforce report, that everyone is still on the job, but they're not finished yet with their work. I know during the Committee discussion, the Council Vice-President asked for further discussion within the MFP Committee on two specific items. One was a code enforcement, the other was police service. And those, again, seem to be two ways in which people are still trying to come to grips with the formula that's currently used, and whether or not it's an equitable one, an efficient one. So that is pretty much in a nut shell what the information that I wanted to provide to all of you this morning. And I would ask that we approve the Executive's recommended budget as provided to us back in March.

Council President Knapp,

Without objection. Very good.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,

Okay. Okay. And we'll move on to the final item that I asked to pull out this morning, which is the Operating Budget, the FY09 Operating Budget for the Board of Elections. I know we have several people from the Board with us this morning. Again, I was hoping that I could bring this forward not so much for a discussion around the lease for



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1 renovation of space since that actually was included in the Consent Calendar listing of
2 items, but this is more specific about a recent discussion that we had within MFP. I see
3 that Nancy Dacek, the Secretary of the Board of Elections is joining us, as well as
4 Margaret Jurgenson, who is the Executive Director, and we had, I think, two or three
5 worksessions on a host of issues relating to the Board of Elections, and the specifics of
6 what I wanted to provide to you this morning was the recommendation recently, as of
7 last week, to include \$836,750 on the reconciliation list for two items in particular. One is
8 250 electronic poll books to the tune of \$756,000, and database development to the
9 tune of \$80,000. Again, I'm going to let Margaret speak to why the Board came to us
10 with these requests, and why the Committee recommended them so readily, again one
11 of the issues that was raised by myself and by colleagues during worksession
12 discussion is our continued frustration often with the lack of direction from the state,
13 around investments, and the fact that often times we've got the Board scrambling to get
14 to us in time, so that funding can be provided, again, recognizing the critical nature of
15 the work that indeed they do for this community. So with that, I'm going to ask Margaret
16 if you want to just walk us through the significance of both of these items and why we
17 need to fund them.

18
19 Margaret Jurgenson,

20 All right. Good morning, everyone. The reason we brought this forward is that the
21 Maryland legislature did consider purchasing additional electronic poll books for the
22 local Boards of Elections, but subsequently did not. Under the current allotment which is
23 one electronic poll book for every 1,000 registered voters, in November of 2008, the
24 way it has been allocated for Montgomery County, it would mean that we would have to
25 process a registered voter every 50 seconds. And that assumes that everything works
26 perfectly. Realistically, that's not going to happen. A lot of individuals are going to come
27 up, they may or may not know where they're voting. There's always problems when
28 there's a long line. So one of the things that we had recommended is the purchase of
29 additional 250 electronic poll books. The primary election we deployed all but 11 of the
30 electronic poll books and all but five of the printers that occurred. And that was a 45%
31 voter turnout. So we believe that in order to not have very long lines, and I mean, one of
32 the things that we believe is you need to have additional electronic poll books so that we
33 can staff additional individuals at the check in table to move that line along. Also we
34 have added extra personnel in the morning and in the evening to help move these lines
35 along. Additionally, one of the things that we're also going to do is take as much
36 equipment as we possibly can, that's all functioning, and send that out. We will keep
37 approximately 20 units back so that if there is some sort of emergency, we can deploy
38 to an emergency polling place. We also believe that if the new HAVA monies become
39 available, that this is something that we would recommend to the County to see if we
40 could have these additional 250 electronic poll books split the cost 50/50 with the state.
41 But it's come to my attention that we need to develop an amendment to the State Help
42 American Vote Act Plan and that just came forward in the last week. So that would be
43 one way to offset some of the money for the purchase of these electronic poll books.
44 The poll books run \$3,027 per poll book with the printers and cables.



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1
2 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
3 Thank you Margaret.

4
5 Margaret Jurgenson,
6 Okay. The database development has to do with the election judges. With the number
7 of people that we need to use, the Microsoft access database is very fragile, and we are
8 deeply concerned with the number of, with the addition of using provisional, part-time
9 election judges, it will cause the system to crash. And with the desire to have really
10 competent, knowledgeable, skilled people serving in that able bodied role of making the
11 democracy work, that we need to have more individuals, and that means we have to
12 reach out to more part time judges. More part time judges means that database
13 becomes greater, increasingly fragile, and that's why we're asking for those two things.

14
15 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
16 Thank you very much, Margaret, for that explanation. I would note for my colleagues
17 that one of the requests that came out of the last MFP discussion on indeed these
18 items, but really the entire budget, was the fact that we would like to initiate some
19 dialogue with the state folks. So we actually are in the process of trying to put together a
20 meeting with those folks, I believe in September. Is that what we were planning, so stay
21 tuned for that interesting conversation. I would call on my colleague, Councilmember
22 Floreen, do you have questions on this item?

23
24 Councilmember Floreen,
25 Not on this item, it's unrelated.

26
27 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
28 Oh, okay. Okay. Okay. Well, again, thank you very much Margaret and Nancy.

29
30 Council President Knapp,
31 Hold on. Hold on. Actually, before you run away, I just wanted to thank you all. I know
32 it's been a challenging year thus far, and I appreciate your turning on a dime to help us
33 address the special election requirements that we've had and, in the primary and in the
34 general coming up and in the midst of what else you're already doing in an election
35 year, I know that that wasn't a simple task and I appreciate your efforts and the efforts
36 of all of the folks on the Board of Elections team.

37
38 Margaret Jurgenson,
39 And one thing I would ask of all of you is that, particularly for the November election,
40 when we send out that sample ballot, really encourage people to use it, read it, mark it
41 in advance, to try to get the lines moving election day quickly.

42
43 Council President Knapp,



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1 Good. And I would also, to the extent to my colleagues, I know that I had a town
2 meeting last Monday, had about a hundred folks show up, and I know that you had
3 some people there trying to identify some potential poll workers, and so to my
4 colleagues, if you have meetings where you think there's going to be a significant
5 number of people, especially kind of folks a little bit out of the usual suspects, let the
6 Board of Elections know, because they'll get some folks there and sign some people up.
7 I saw everybody walk away with little Board of Elections book markers so.

8
9 Nancy Dacek,
10 Well, there are still going to be lines in November.

11
12 Council President Knapp,
13 Still need workers though.

14
15 Margaret Jurgenson,
16 Yes, we do.

17
18 Nancy Dacek,
19 We need workers, right.

20
21 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
22 But we want to encourage that participation.

23
24 Margaret Jurgenson,
25 Thank you.

26
27 Council President Knapp,
28 Council Vice-President Andrews.

29
30 Councilmember Andrews,
31 It's time to round up the unusual suspects too.

32
33 Council President Knapp,
34 Yep.

35
36 Councilmember Andrews,
37 Yeah, I want to second what Council President Knapp said about the hard work that
38 you've had to undertake in the last few months because of a lot of changes and
39 unanticipated events, including the death of our colleague Marilyn Praisner. I know you
40 have the special election May 13th, to fill District 4's seat, and you have a special
41 election or general election now in June right, for the Congressional District 4 seat.

42
43 Council President Knapp,
44 Right.



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1
2 Councilmember Andrews,
3 I assume you're going to send out sample ballots in each of those cases?
4

5 Margaret Jurgenson,
6 Yes.
7

8 Councilmember Andrews,
9 Good, because very few people are aware, at this point, as of today, maybe that'll
10 change in a week, but very few people are aware, I think, that there are special
11 elections coming up. In fact two of them for a number of voters. All right. Thank you.
12

13 Council President Knapp,
14 Thank you.
15

16 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
17 I want to thank both Nancy and Margaret for coming this morning.
18

19 Councilmember Floreen,
20 I had a question.
21

22 Council President Knapp,
23 Councilmember Floreen.
24

25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 Don't go. Yes, I had a question for the Board. I was just looking at your, it's an okay
27 question, performance measures. I didn't realize that you are engaged in municipal
28 elections?
29

30 Margaret Jurgenson,
31 Yes, we provide the local municipalities lists of individual registered voters, and the,
32 actually, the last election we conducted, it's really a partnership. The City of Rockville
33 utilizes our equipment to conduct their elections. Gaithersburg went out and contracted
34 with a private sector to conduct their election. Takoma Park does their own election.
35 And smaller townships conduct their election however they choose.
36

37 Councilmember Floreen,
38 Yeah that's what I thought. So I was interested that you obviously do some of that, and I
39 am just wondering about the financial relationship. I mean, is there, are you reimbursed
40 by the municipalities for that?
41

42 Margaret Jurgenson,
43 Okay. The list of registered voters, we just print that out for them. That's just really very
44 simple.



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1
2 Councilmember Floreen,
3 Yeah.

4
5 Margaret Jurgenson,
6 If they utilize the equipment, they have to pay for it.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Okay. So, that's worked into the --.

10
11 Margaret Jurgenson,
12 And they do have to pay for any of our overtime costs.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 Sure. Okay. Well, that was my question. Thank you very much. And I really join my
16 colleagues in saying this has been an awfully hard year for you, and we do appreciate
17 that.

18
19 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
20 Thanks.

21
22 Council President Knapp,
23 Thank you. Okay. [multiple speakers]. We now turn to the Washington Suburban
24 Sanitary Commission, Agenda item number 45. Councilmember Floreen, Chair of the
25 Transportation Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee. Got that right.

26
27 Councilmember Floreen,
28 You did. You did. Thank you very much. I would like to invite members of the
29 Commission and the staff to join us here. And as with the Board of Elections, I would
30 express my deep appreciation to the Chair Mandel, who is finishing up her year as
31 Chair of the Commission, and she started out with a splash, and also to Commissioner
32 Counihan and ask if they would like to make any opening remarks before we get into
33 the substance?

34
35 Adrienne Mandel,
36 Thank you Chair Floreen. Good morning to Council President Knapp and Vice-
37 President Andrews and all of the Councilmembers. As you know, I am Chair Adrienne
38 Mandel, and joined today with Gene Counihan another Commissioner from Montgomery
39 County. And on behalf of all of the Montgomery County Commissioners, we thank T&E
40 Chair Floreen for her leadership. We had a very productive worksession last month with
41 the T&E Committee, with Councilmember Leventhal, and Councilmember Berliner, and I
42 think we are moving forward together in concert. The staff has responded to questions
43 that were posed at the worksession, in writing, I believe you have them before you. We



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1 are here basically to request from you your continuing support for what we consider is a
2 very tight same services proposed FY09 budget. Thank you very much.

3
4 Councilmember Floreen,

5 Okay. Thank you. Let me just, I'm going to just summarize some of the key points, and
6 I'll let Keith or Teresa, the interim General Manager address the details. In a nutshell,
7 WSSC, as you know, this is a, sort of a collaborative budget with Prince George's
8 County, dominated primarily by the capital budget. What is being proposed is an 8%
9 rate increase. It does not include the somewhat controversial ready to serve charge
10 which would have allowed WSSC to take more aggressive action with respect to its
11 infrastructure needs and the ever present breaking of pipe problem that is not going to
12 go away. Basically, what this will achieve though is their ability to reconstruct 27 miles of
13 water lines, and 51 miles of sewer lines, which is what the budget was for this year.
14 There are some details in here that I, I really think that's what the Council probably
15 cares about the most and, Keith, why don't you take us through the rest of the details.

16
17 Keith Levchenko,

18 First I will note, as you noted, it is a collaborative effort with Prince George's County,
19 and we have a bi-county meeting.

20
21 Councilmember Floreen,
22 On Thursday.

23
24 Keith Levchenko,

25 To discuss this on May 8th, Thursday.

26
27 Councilmember Floreen,
28 Thursday. Right.

29
30 Keith Levchenko,

31 This, as well as Park and Planning.

32
33 Councilmember Floreen,
34 And that will be in Laurel.

35
36 Keith Levchenko,

37 It's going to be at the WSSC headquarters in Laurel.

38
39 Councilmember Floreen,

40 Right. So, we will need all of us, right? Or six of us.

41
42 Keith Levchenko,

43 Well, a majority of each Council.

44



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1 Councilmember Floreen,
2 Yeah. Yeah. But there are no lingering issues for debate, as of this point?

3
4 Keith Levchenko,
5 Well, Prince George's County will be discussing it tomorrow.

6
7 Councilmember Floreen,
8 Yeah.

9
10 Keith Levchenko,
11 Or the Council will be discussing it tomorrow, and we'll see what differences arise there
12 and we'll be talking about them with them over the next couple of days.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 Right.

16
17 Keith Levchenko,
18 And be working with this Council as appropriate to formulate the response we want to
19 provide based on their recommendations. Just briefly, as I walk through the packet, I did
20 want to alert the Council, as we talked about in Committee, there was some state
21 legislation that was approved that gave Prince George's County authority to exercise an
22 energy tax, which will impact WSSC. We don't know the exact dollar amount, but if it
23 were to be at a rate that is in place now for other entities in Prince George's County, the
24 estimate is it would be about a \$700,000 impact.

25
26 Councilmember Floreen,
27 Right.

28
29 Keith Levchenko,
30 Although they have not set the rate yet, so we don't have an exact number, but staff
31 recommended and the Committee concurred that based on that number and the fact
32 that WSSC does have a healthy excess fund balance right now, we felt they could
33 accommodate that with fund balance, or if they are able to find other reductions
34 throughout the fiscal year next year, they could do it that way. We do not recommend
35 increasing rates marginally to cover that difference. Also would note that's the System
36 Development Charge was recommended to remain the same. We talked about this in
37 the CIP, and also again in the Operating Budget. We'll be formalizing that with an
38 introduction tomorrow, and then action next week on a number of revenues including
39 the SDC. Also, we have to collaborate with Prince George's County on that as well.
40 That's why I would note for you that I have the information in this packet today regarding
41 that introduction tomorrow, and then we'll be finalizing that really Thursday, but
42 formalizing it here next week.

43
44 Councilmember Floreen,



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1 Right. And let me just add, on the whole issue of the System Development Charges and
2 related issues, we will be taking up the 10-year water and sewer plan. When will that be,
3 Keith, sometime later this year?

4
5 Keith Levchenko,
6 We expect to get that later this spring from the Executive.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Yeah.

10
11 Keith Levchenko,
12 And we will be scheduling it for Council review after that.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 Yeah. I have asked that we focus in part, Mr. President, I know you were interested in
16 this issue, a number of us are, in how we deal with small communities that have failing
17 septic systems, folks who cannot afford the gargantuan costs of extending the sewer on
18 their own. And I will note this is an issue in Clarksburg. We also have a growing issue in
19 the Glen Hills portion of the County, and that's all under study, but inconclusive as of
20 this point. So that is a growing problem underneath the surface that we, indeed, yes,
21 and we are, you know, as you will recall in the water and sewer category changed a bit.
22 We have conversation, we have periodically, we asked folks to look at alternative
23 systems and so forth and so on. But there are limits, and we, it's a matter that we will
24 continue to focus on. But it is a real big serious health and environmental issue that we
25 need to figure out how to deal with.

26
27 Keith Levchenko,
28 The other thing I will note is unlike other budgets, WSSC does have its own spending
29 control limits process, which we go through exhaustively every fall. And this certainly
30 highlighted early on the issues that we'll be dealing with now, including the needed rate
31 increase, as well as this ready to serve charge issue. This Council supported a slightly
32 higher rate increase, as well as the ready to serve charge back in the fall, or actually
33 winter, Prince George's County did not, but that sort of set the stage for some of the
34 issues that were then worked out at WSSC and incorporated into their proposed budget.
35 The proposed budget assumed an 8% rate increase, but no ready to serve charge as
36 Ms. Floreen mentioned. The County Executive recommendation, apart from some
37 technical adjustments related to some debt service revisions based on more recent CIP
38 information, especially with regard to the Blue Plains budgets, was basically
39 recommending as proposed, so you will see some minor adjustments there, but not a
40 substantive difference from the WSSC proposal. The, a couple of things the Committee
41 discussed with regard to the budget, perhaps the biggest Operating Budget item, or new
42 initiative within CIP, is their EAM ERP IT project. This is a five year, \$35 million project,
43 the County government is also going through its own ERP process as well, and the
44 school system is also in a stage of this, as well. So the MFP Committee is probably



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1 more familiar with this perhaps than some of the other Councilmembers, but they are
2 multi-year initiatives, significant efficiency potential there, significant multi-year costs,
3 however, as well, and we are seeing a big chunk of dollars needed for that in the FY09
4 fiscal year. We did recommend, and the Commission ultimately did propose, utilizing
5 some fund balance to address some of those FY09 costs, recognizing that it is a,
6 although it is a multi-year program, it is a one-time type of program, and to the degree
7 we have excess fund balance, that is a good use for that to try to stabilize rates,
8 especially if after five years, and the dollars go away, there are some efficiencies
9 gained, you're not having built up the base in the rates to pay for that. It's more
10 appropriate to try to deal with that if you can with fund balance, which we have the
11 opportunity to do this time around. That's something we'll have to review each year
12 though as to what the health of WSSC's fund balance is. And I do have in the packet a
13 description of where we stand as of their most recent monthly status report for this year.
14 The Committee also discussed a number of new positions recommended in the budget.
15 I've noted that discussion on page 10 of the packet. And there's also an attachment.
16 The Committee discussed a number of these positions at length and requested some
17 additional information which WSSC transmitted this past Friday. Staff emailed it to the
18 Councilmembers as well as provided hardcopies that should have gone out with your
19 Friday packets, and I do have a couple of hardcopies here, as well. There were some
20 questions about one of the new environmental positions, and that's noted in this
21 response. What I've tried to do in the packet is try to put this in the context of WSSC's
22 historic work year trends. A number of years ago when WSSC went through a CAP
23 program, they called it, a Competitive Action Program, they went through a substantial
24 work force reduction of about a third of their work force, which on the top of page 10,
25 you can see the results of that, where they bottomed out in the, a few years ago, at
26 about 1,458 positions. Since that time, and it's not coincidentally when the new General
27 Manager came in and identified some areas he felt had been cut too far perhaps, and
28 also some areas that are funded with fees, so perhaps not relevant to this, we had
29 started to see some work force increases. So now with the FY09 proposed budget we're
30 at a work force level of 1,555. Now it is important to keep that in context, within WSSC
31 the personnel costs are a far smaller ratio of expenditures than they are in other more
32 typical County government operations, such as schools or some of the more general
33 government functions. So you're looking at salary and wages and overall personnel
34 costs that total about a quarter of their budget. So it's much more of a production or
35 manufacturing type of ratio than you would see with a staff intensive approach. But still
36 the work force is a significant portion of their budget so we tried to highlight the work
37 years as well as the compensation which I've noted at the bottom of page 11. The, as
38 Mr. Andrews mentioned earlier, there has not been a final Council action on
39 compensation across the agencies but for purposes of WSSC, because we do have a
40 bi-County meeting later this week, it is important for the Council to be comfortable with
41 what WSSC has in its budget, and I've noted that on the bottom of page 11. They have
42 a somewhat unique structure. They do have -- and merit increases, but also have a
43 number of other salary packages that make it somewhat harder to compare, but in
44 terms of their -- and merits, they are in line or slightly lower in some cases than what the



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1 other agencies are proposing. So for just broad purposes of being comfortable with this
2 compensation approach, staff and the Committee recommended concurring with that.

3
4 Councilmember Floreen,

5 And let me just say, a lot of those are incentive and reward programs that encourage
6 initiative, additional training, and education. And are designed to enhance the talents
7 and efficiency of the work force. So, not being the MFP Committee, we didn't go into all
8 the details but I think they would determine that, all things being equal, they were worthy
9 objectives.

10
11 Keith Levchenko,

12 The Commission is planning to look at their overall compensation approach in the
13 coming months. It's something that's been in place for about four or five years basically.
14 So it is probably about time to look at it holistically and decide whether there are some
15 adjustments or broader changes that need to be done based on the status of the
16 agency today. I did note at the bottom of page 12, the customer impact of the budget,
17 for each 1% rate increase, the impact, the annual impact on a customer, average
18 residential customer bill is about \$5.76. The 8% increase you can see is about a \$46
19 impact. Now if you remember from last fall, these are far lower than the impacts we
20 would have seen with the ready to serve charge increase, and that's where a lot of the
21 energy of the debate was, because of the substantial increase there. There you were
22 talking about several hundred dollar increase over a one year, over an annual period for
23 a customer.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,

26 And we were actually, it was going to be a rate increase in addition to that.

27
28 Keith Levchenko,

29 Right.

30
31 Councilmember Floreen,

32 That would have been, well, that would have been \$80 average.

33
34 Keith Levchenko,

35 So it was.

36
37 Councilmember Floreen,

38 In numeral addition.

39
40 Keith Levchenko,

41 Right. And that's an issue we'll be dealing with again as we go through the next
42 process, as we try to balance rate impact with our infrastructure needs, and see if we
43 can come to some resolution, both internally here, but also with Prince George's
44 County, of course, to move forward with that.



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Councilmember Floreen,

Let me, while we're here on this subject, I would like the reaction of the leadership of WSSC on this issue. Is there any hope that this is addressable?

Adrienne Mandel,

Chairman Floreen, we believe very strongly that the will to continue a robust program of infrastructure renewal is there in both of the Counties. The methodology for arriving there is that which needs to be worked out. And our interim General Manager and deputy interim General Manager are in the process of reconstituting the bi-County work group. I'll ask Ms. Daniell.

Councilmember Floreen,

Yeah.

Adrienne Mandel,

To address that as to when that initial meeting will be taking place, and there are many options on the table that will be explored by this work group. We are cautiously optimistic.

Councilmember Floreen,

We have several, particularly in the down County area, as you know, we have some major reconstruction issues, and our residents would prefer that we deal with it. Ms. --.

Teresa Daniell,

Let me just briefly say in terms of setting up the initial reconstitution of the working group, we're going to, obviously we need to allow the Councils to get through the budget process, but, because you're pretty tied up right now, but at the end of the month, or soon thereafter is when we want to have our first meeting, and as the Chair rightly pointed out, it's the methodology that's going to be, obviously, the difficult process, but there's always a solution, and we're determined that we, you know, we must find something. So, yes. It's doable.

Councilmember Floreen,

Okay. Well, we shall see.

Keith Levchenko,

And I did note on page 14 some of the questions as a member of that working group that I'll be asking that we go through. Obviously what we've learned over the past six months.

Councilmember Floreen,

It would be good if we didn't do the same old same old.



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1 Keith Levchenko,
2 Right. Exactly. So, you know, what is realistic, what are some of the option that were
3 floated either by the Councilmembers or by the public in some of the hearings. So, we'll
4 look at funding sources such as you proposed, and we'll just see what the group can
5 come up with.

6
7 Councilmember Andrews,
8 Okay. Councilmember Berliner.

9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 Thank you Council Vice-President. I wanted to thank you, Ms. Daniell, for your response
12 to my inquiry in the worksession with respect to the number of water main breaks and
13 where they have occurred and I will share with my colleagues, I don't believe all of my
14 colleagues have gotten the beautiful little color-coded chart that you prepared on our
15 behalf that shows where the water main breaks have occurred in FY06, '07, and '08.
16 There are all these little dots, and there are just a disproportionate number of these little
17 dots in District 1 and District 5 in particular. You may have added up all of those dots
18 and I didn't see them someplace. Did you? And, if so, could you give us those numbers
19 with respect to where those water mains occurred cumulatively, FY06, '07, and '08? If
20 not, if you could provide that to us. It looks, on these pieces of paper, that a
21 disproportionate number of them are in fact in District 1 and 5, which is not surprising,
22 because that's where the older facilities are.

23
24 Teresa Daniell,
25 Right.

26
27 Councilmember Berliner,
28 So my question to you, again, was then in light of that disproportional impact on the
29 older communities, your work plan with respect to that, and it appears as if you have a
30 work plan that also seems to be, corresponds to the disproportionate impact on 1 and 5.
31 But I haven't had a chance, having just gotten this on Friday afternoon, to add it up and
32 see if it's in fact in proportion. Is it your sense that it is in proportion?

33
34 Teresa Daniell,
35 Yes, believe it is. I will, and I don't, off the top, have the total number. I will get that for
36 you, but I think you will see, you know, once we provide that and once you've had a
37 chance to look at it, that we are addressing, those do represent the greatest need and
38 would be part of our, would be in line with the priorities that we have.

39
40 Councilmember Berliner,
41 Well, I would ask, staff, if you would, to share with my colleagues that excellent
42 response so that everyone sees by District where the water main breaks have occurred
43 over the past three years, and where the current level of effort is intended to address,



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1 so that we can continue to monitor that and see that it, in fact, proportionally addressed
2 the areas of greatest need. Thank you.

3
4 Councilmember Floreen,
5 Go ahead George.

6
7 Unidentified
8 He was? He is?

9
10 Councilmember Andrews,
11 Go ahead Mr. Leventhal.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 I just wanted to add on that note, it would seem to make sense that as we do with
15 school modernization, that WSSC ought prioritize pipe replacement based on age. Does
16 it not do that? The oldest pipes ought to get replaced sooner than the newer pipes, yes.

17
18 Teresa Daniell,
19 That's one of the major factors, the oldest pipe, but it's also the break history, condition
20 of the pipe, all of those things have to play in, which basically adds up to the age. I
21 mean, that's how we talk about the aging of the pipe.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 Age. Age. Exactly.

25
26 Teresa Daniell,
27 It isn't just how long it's been in the ground. It's the conditions of the pipe as well, again,
28 based on break.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 Okay. So that ought to.

32
33 Teresa Daniell,
34 Yes.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 So my colleague used the word disproportionate. I mean, it would only make sense that
38 older pipes get replaced sooner.

39
40 Teresa Daniell,
41 Correct.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,
44 That would seem logical.



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1
2 Councilmember Floreen,
3 Okay.

4
5 Councilmember Andrews,
6 Okay.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Is there.

10
11 Councilmember Andrews,
12 I don't see any other questions.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 Where we need to go through here Keith.

16
17 Keith Levchenko,
18 That was about, that was a good summary of what I had in my packet.

19
20 Councilmember Floreen,
21 Summary.

22
23 Keith Levchenko,
24 If there's other questions.

25
26 Councilmember Floreen,
27 And are there any other questions? Then that's the, thank you, I want to say my
28 congratulations to Chair Mandel for completing a difficult year and hitting the ground
29 running as you did. We are very grateful to have you and Commissioner -- at the helm,
30 looking out for Montgomery County. Thank you very much.

31
32 Councilmember Andrews,
33 Thank you Chair Floreen. All right. We're now going to move on. Thank you all. To an
34 over view of the County Executive's proposal regarding Positive Youth Development
35 and then after that, the proposed Operating Budget for their Department of Recreation,
36 which certainly ties into it, and both of these discussions are going to be led by
37 Councilmember Marc Elrich who is the Council's lead on youth issues. So,
38 Councilmember Elrich, I think.

39
40 Councilmember Leventhal,
41 Does this make Marc Elrich, the champion of development in Montgomery County?

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,
44 Yes. [laughter].



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Councilmember Andrews,
Youth Development.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,
Positive Youth Development.

Councilmember Elrich,
School buildings. [multiple speakers].

Councilmember Andrews,
You might want to start out by having everybody at the table introduce themselves for those watching.

Natalie Canter,
Good morning. I'm Natalie Canter, Director of Mid-County Regional Services Center.

Tom Manger,
Tom Manger, Police Chief.

Uma Ahluwalla,
Good morning, Uma Ahluwalla, Director of Health and Human Services.

Unidentified
OMB.

Councilmember Andrews,
Good morning everybody. Councilmember Elrich.

Councilmember Elrich,
We have a packet which --an overview of Positive Youth Development. [inaudible]. Maybe that's a reflection of where we are [inaudible]. I have to say, that was my initial reaction was that, not a lot of analysis, not a lot of measurable things. Templates for what we might measure and what we're going to be doing. Thank you. Templates for things that we would be measuring and where we're going. But light on what we do, what works, and what we know. That was my overall reaction to it and I think I talked with Chairman Knapp before he left. We discussed this a little bit yesterday and I think he shared some of my same feelings in that regard. But I guess, you know, my basic question is where do you all think you are in the scheme of developing this? Where does, what is this supposed to tell us, and where are we going with this?

Tom Manger,
Let me just begin by giving a very, very brief historical perspective. In December of 2003, the County Executive's Latin American Advisory Committee made a



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1 recommendation to the County Executive to form a taskforce consisting of both public
2 and private representatives to assess the issue of gangs, including existing resources,
3 identified gaps in service, and construction of recommendations of next steps for
4 Montgomery County. In February of '04 the County Executive from both Montgomery
5 and Prince George's announced the formation of a bi-County gang prevention
6 taskforce. Nine months later, we had a report, it's about three inches thick. I have a
7 copy of the Executive's summary. And basically it came out with about, close to a
8 hundred recommendations about what should be done. Over the next two years, there
9 were work groups that were formed to implement these recommendations. Many of the
10 recommendations were implemented. Many of them were combined with others. They
11 were prioritized. Some of the bigger things that came out of it were the Youth
12 Opportunity Center in Langley Park, and a centralized gang unit within the Police
13 Department, both of which received congressional funding. The, there were a lot of
14 programs and recommendations implemented having to do with community education
15 and awareness. Some community programs, some government programs. And, folks,
16 as we were implementing them, we started seeing a, the fact that they all came down to
17 one of three categories. They were either prevention programs, intervention programs,
18 or suppression programs. And as we got to the point where we had implemented just
19 about everything we were going to be able to implement, that coincided about the time
20 with new administration. So a year ago, we closed out the work of the previous
21 taskforce, and really moved into a larger, not just gang prevention, but a Positive Youth
22 Development theme, and we took a more community-based approach. And we'll talk a
23 little bit about, and I'm happy to, and Mr. Elrich, you know, I understand that the Council
24 probably has, I guess there's a lot of gaps in terms of the information we have
25 conveyed. As I was preparing for today's hearing, I'm, the information does exist, I
26 mean, it exists, it's just a matter of getting it to folks. If, you know, you're interested in
27 what we've done, what we know, some of the assessments we've done, evaluations
28 we've done, the programs we've instituted, there's a lot of information out there, but I
29 think what we would like to focus on today is the County Executive's Positive Youth
30 Development initiative, which again has taken, the difference is we understand that one
31 size does not fit all, and we, what we would like to do is, and what we've done is
32 targeted four areas of the County where we know there is gang activity, that there is a
33 need for youth programs, because of some of the issues that we have going on in these
34 four areas, and so we developed, we have four community-based collaboratives that
35 are in progress right now. We're going to update you on what they're doing, as well, but
36 at this point, that's kind of a historical perspective to sort of get us up to what we're
37 doing now, and I'll let Uma talk about some of the, I guess some of the framework in
38 terms of the definitions that we're using as we move forward.

39
40 Councilmember Elrich,
41 I just want to respond.

42
43 Tom Manger,
44 Sure.



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Councilmember Elrich,

I think that progress is uneven across Departments. I think some things were able to be implemented pretty directly. I mean, your Department has a focus, it's on crime prevention, and some things have been a lot broader, but when you start trying to engage the entire community in youth programs, or identifying the need for services, that's a larger universe, and more difficult to figure out what you have and what works, and as we'll discuss in the Rec program, and I don't think my views of, for example, Rec Extra and the Sports Academy are any surprise to anybody. I really do question the efficacy and the breadth of our program of giving the need. That doesn't mean that I don't think that nothing is being done, but I think it's hard to get a sense of real clearly where we are. I think the change in focus from anti-gang to the broader Youth Development is actually a real positive, because I think it really gets to wanting to deal with kids, A, before they wind up in gangs, which is the best prevention you can possibly do. I think it also makes the programs, and our discussion of the programs more palatable to the general community, because if everything is seen as an anti-gang program, it almost like stigmatizes programs from parents not wanting to put their kid in a program because it's an anti-gang program. That means it must be filled with gang members, and I think that while that was, that it at one point in time had a lot of political capital to talk about things that way, I think in the real world, it's discouraging to people to think if I put my kid in this program, it's targeted at gang members to keep them out of gangs. So I think the broader focus is a really good thing that's been done. I just now want to get to the point where we can start talking about programs and their effectiveness, and whether or not we should continue, or what we should do in a different direction.

Councilmember Andrews,

Hold on just a second. Councilmember Ervin has a comment or question.

Councilmember Ervin,

Thank you very much. I just want to piggyback on what Councilmember Elrich is saying about the overall thrust of the Positive Youth Development initiative, which I'm having a hard time understanding in terms of the efficacy of what it is you're trying to do. And so, as I was going through the budget, and I noticed that almost \$5 million spent across agencies in FY08 for gang prevention, so I went back and looked at last year, and in FY07, in August, there was a memo from Captain David Gillespie, Special Investigations Division, giving us, the Council, an update on the semiannual active gang assessment, which is very important and interesting information. And as of August '08, of last year, your statistics say that there were 36 current active gangs, about 1,100 active gang members, 13 new gangs, 13 gangs that became inactive. It tells us the racial makeup of gangs, and racial makeup of their membership, so the reason I'm bringing this up, is because when we're looking at the budget, and \$5 million spent on a statistic that tells us there are 36 active gangs, and the gangs range in size from three members of the gang to upwards of some of the largest ones I saw were 60, my



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1 question is, how does this all fit together? If we're spending \$5 million across agencies
2 to prevent gang activity, and then we look at the kinds of programs that we're running in
3 the County, which I believe are excellent programs, the Sports Academy, Rec Extra,
4 Department of Recreation has \$320,000 in the budget to support enhancements to
5 Scotland, Ross --, Clara Barton, Good Hope, and Plumgar, which I'd like to hear a little
6 bit about that. What are we talking about here? Preventing gangs, are we moving the
7 gang members over here, and what we're really focusing on, our efficacy is on, before
8 these young people get into gangs, and then that's where we want to focus our
9 attention. So I'm sort of curious, it's not laid out in the packet, what is it that you're trying
10 to accomplish?

11
12 Gabe Albornoz,

13 Right. I think at the heart of it, it is about Positive Youth Development in terms where we
14 recognize we all have a stake in this game. We all play a critical role to developing our
15 youth in Montgomery County. We're all coming at this from slightly different angles, and
16 on its most basic level, what this initiative is about, is connecting dots. It's connecting
17 organizations that all have a various program, a various project to get us to
18 communicate more effectively, leverage the resources that we all have, share
19 information where possible and when appropriate, and to really create a mechanism so
20 that our folks on the ground that are working with these kids on a daily basis, can have
21 the support that they need to continue the great work that they're doing. And on its most
22 basic level that's what we're trying to achieve. I will state that the County Stat initiative
23 has been very helpful and continues to be helpful in terms of framing this so that you
24 guys can see that there are specific outcomes that we are going to strive to achieve as
25 part of this initiative as a whole. Uma in a little bit is going to talk about the definitions
26 that will sort of explain, on more general terms, the exact target population we're trying
27 to achieve, and what our various roles are, but the Committee, the Steering Committee
28 that has been made up, and the one that I'll describe now briefly, is the next evolution of
29 the last taskforce that Chief Manger discussed earlier. And we have a Steering
30 Committee that's Chaired by Uma, Chief, and myself, and consists of government and
31 nongovernment agencies, and again, key stakeholders that all have a role to play in this
32 initiative. We have met four times since last year, and in this coming year, we have
33 agreed to meet biannually, and the difference between this approach and the approach
34 previously as Chief again illustrated is that this is a much more community-based
35 approach. We have established these community-based collaboratives. Natalie Canter
36 is here to talk about the one that's going on in Wheaton, but what we hope to achieve is
37 acknowledge that this truly, every community is different in its makeup, in its resources,
38 and what we're trying to do is to have the communities tell us what they need, so that
39 we can again create, connect more dots and create a much more collaborative
40 approach. There are a number of other key initiatives that relate to Positive Youth
41 Development that are out there. There is the Kennedy Cluster Project, as an example.
42 There's the Collaboration Council's Excel Beyond the Bell Project. So the good news is
43 there are a lot of efforts underway and this is another attempt to bring those efforts
44 together in some collective fashion, so that we're not tripping over each other, and a lot



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1 of the same people that are participating in these other efforts are going to the same
2 meetings. Uma and I are, like, separated at the hip, you know, connected at the hip, and
3 Chief as well. And the important thing also is, is it's not just the talking heads that are
4 actively working together, it's the folks that are on the ground as well. We had a very
5 successful session with key staff members about four months ago to learn about each
6 other's programs, because, I mean, we're all operating just on a day by day basis, trying
7 to survive, so this was a great, this is a great initiative and one that aims to connect
8 those dots.

9
10 Councilmember Ervin,

11 One quick follow-up, sorry Uma, before you go, and that is I'm looking at circle 16, and
12 I'm seeing my question is already answered on circle 16, it says that the target
13 population for the Department of Health and Human Services is youth who are currently
14 involved in or at risk for gang involvement and their families. And so I would like to see
15 the updated information from, this was from Sergeant Charles Welsh to Captain David
16 Gillespie on our current gangs, membership, how many gangs, and how exactly do you
17 work directly with gangs, gangs, gang members, their families. I'm just trying to get a
18 real sort of succinct look at how we're spending that \$5 million. Anybody?

19
20 Tom Manger,

21 Well, I don't know, we have, that update comes out periodically, I have one dated
22 February 29th, same memo from Sergeant Welsh to Captain Gillespie, and we do keep
23 track of the number of gangs, number of active gangs, and their gang activity. The
24 Positive Youth, and one of the trends that you're going to see is that in the past several
25 years, it seems like with every one of these reports we're finding more active gang
26 members, more active gangs, and part of that is the fact that we are a lot better today
27 than we were even two or three years ago at identifying gang members and identifying
28 the active gangs. So, some of the increase has to do with better tracking, but I think
29 there is still slow but steady increase in the number of gangs operating in the County as
30 well. And in terms of keeping track of how the money is spent on all the Positive Youth
31 Development and gang initiatives, hopefully we're going to get to that in the
32 presentation.

33
34 Councilmember Ervin,

35 All right. And my final point here is that what's the connection or the correlation between
36 gang members and their, and school? Are they suspended? Are they dropped out? Are
37 they failing? What, there is a direct correlation, I believe, between those young people
38 who find themselves in gangs and whether or not they're failing in school or whether
39 they're in school at all, so that's why I know the good work that's being done by Gabe
40 and Uma across agencies is to sort of figure out how the County can better spend its
41 resources. I think \$5 million across all of these agencies, a lot of nonprofits and
42 government are doing the same kinds of work. How do we figure this out? And I know
43 that you're working really hard to do that.



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1 Councilmember Andrews,

2 Okay. I know that you want to finish your presentation, we have one more question that
3 I want to get on the table early, or comment, and then we'll have you go through your
4 presentation and then we'll come back on questions. Councilmember Trachtenberg.

5
6 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

7 Thank you Vice-President Andrews. Just three quick questions, again, I wanted to raise
8 them now before the presentation began, and the first really is specific to the issue of
9 outcome measurements. I know that there are some upcoming County Stat meetings at
10 which there is going to be some definition agreed to in terms of those measurements.
11 But I wondered if you could make some general comments on the developments of
12 those metrics specific to performance but also to outreach in the community. And I
13 wondered if you'd care to just make some general comments on that because, again,
14 I'm sure that in some of the preliminary conversations that you've all had, there's got to
15 be some coalescing around one or two areas of focus. And I wondered what those
16 would be. [inaudible]. Well, I think with the first two. I'm not sure about the third. In
17 terms of the programming that has been described in the packet and presentation that
18 is about to take place, I'd really like to have a firmer understanding of where all of that
19 programming fits in, again specifically, the early assessment issues around unmet
20 behavioral health and addiction needs. I think we need to have some clarity around that.
21 And I also would be interested in having a conversation about the truancy issues that
22 exist. That goes very much to some of what was raised by my colleague
23 Councilmember Ervin. And actually, the last point that I was going to raise is the fact
24 that when I was looking at the documents last night I noticed on the memorandum,
25 again circle 30, that went out specifically from our County Stat Manager identifying the
26 upcoming County Stat meeting, I noticed that there wasn't any representation from
27 MCPS at any of that. And while I understand in terms of Department responsibility why
28 that would be the case, I would like the issue of coordination addressed. In other words,
29 it would seem to me, that if we're going to have an effective youth program there has to
30 be collaboration, you know, with the school system and really representation from that
31 end of the street, this goes to a theme that I continue to raise. And I know that, again, in
32 the spirit of what Valerie, Councilmember Ervin raised, she's pretty much got the same
33 idea I have, which is that if you're going to have something that is effectively
34 coordinated that relates to children, you've got to have at least some measure of,
35 reasonable measure of collaboration with the school system. While I could see why they
36 wouldn't be included in the County Stat meetings that are coming up, I would hope that
37 as you continue to work on this, there would be some way to identify that kind of
38 coordination, I know that was raised last year, and is very much on my mind. Because,
39 again, I think the school is one place where you can do a lot of that early intervention.

40
41 Uma Ahluwalia,

42 Thank you. I will start, and I'm sure that Gabe and the Chief will want to jump in, and
43 Natalie too when it's appropriate to answer some of the questions. One stunning piece
44 of data that I think, it was so powerful for me that I want to lead with this, is in our –



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1 packet, it showed that 79% of the youth population at MCCF, over 21% of all gang
2 members who were at the correctional facility were under the age of 22, over 21%. To
3 me, that's, it's been a growth. The total gang population at the correctional facility has
4 grown from 110 in January to about 142 in March. To me, that speaks to the Chief's
5 point that they are identifying folks more, and that the suppression side is actually
6 working. I mean, more people are coming to the attention of the Police Department.
7 More people, between the State's Attorney and the Police Department, they are
8 responding from a criminal gang activity perspective, they're responding. But it also
9 points to sort of a larger need for the prevention intervention activities to take on a larger
10 and larger role. And --, you've been coming to us for the past year and saying about
11 well what about outcome measurement, what about outcome measurement, where,
12 how do we know what's effective. County Stat for us was sort of the first comprehensive
13 look see of all of our programs and measures and say, okay, how do we baseline? And
14 it became clear, and this I think some of what you're sensing, it's not that there isn't a lot
15 of activity, I don't think we all define issues the same way, so then what happens is
16 we're all measuring things, but it's hard to have a corollary across programs to say this
17 is the standard performance measure and this is the kind of impact we're having. So the
18 first step for us to respond to all of this is to say, can we measure all, can we define all
19 of our programs with sort of some of these core definitions which we would then apply
20 to performance metrics? Having said that, I think clearly all of us could give you data.
21 Tons of data on what's happening. I mean, and I'll give you, I'll point you to a few from
22 the HHS perspective that are actually, in my opinion, outcomes driven, that are actually
23 telling you, pointing to recidivism, which to me is a very good performance measure or
24 pointing to the number, you know, there's outputs and then there's outcomes. And I
25 think we all have tons of outputs that we can generate and give you. Once we have the
26 definitions we can actually give you the outcomes as well. But there's a ton of work
27 going on that's very relevant to this activity. And I'll talk that through. Just a quick sort of
28 response on County Stat and why there are some other Departments, such as the
29 public school system that are missing. The thought was here we are trying to do
30 something within County government, and we're still not completely aligned, and do we
31 put our house in order and get a sense of what are the programs? What's the, what are
32 the populations to be served? Do we have our definitions right? Then we want to invite
33 the State's Attorney and public school system and some of the other very core partners
34 to the work. But that doesn't preclude the cooperation and the activities that are already
35 underway. Whether they're sitting at the County Stat table or not, every single instance,
36 whether it's the delivery of programs in Gabe's area, or the mediation that occurs
37 through my youth violence coordinators and Street Outreach Network or the Police
38 Department engaging with the EFO's, clearly, MCPS and County government are
39 interfacing very, very closely because there's no way to do this work. They're the ones
40 who have the kids 6, 7 hours in the day. So there's no way to do this work without
41 engaging with them. There is a truancy taskforce that actually John McCarthy has
42 initiated that you all are familiar with and all of us are participating in that. The question
43 of sort of what kind of options do we create for children who, you know, it's easy to
44 suspend or to expel, but then what happens to the youth and how do we engage them



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1 is sort of part of the conversation in terms of building options that we're engaged in. And
2 the Excel Beyond the Bell initiative is a big part of the solution for us. Then I do want to
3 say, as Gabe mentioned, the Kennedy Cluster will be a small microcosm where we're
4 suspending rules and testing and trying to come up with new rules of engagement for us
5 to figure out how do we respond to the multiple social determinants that will impact the
6 educational achievement. Those social determinants are really disparities and issues
7 around health, or domestic violence, or substance abuse, or homelessness that are
8 occurring in those communities. It is really pretty powerful that all of these different
9 initiatives are all coming together at a moment in time, and clearly sort of delineating
10 what is prevention, what's intervention, and what's suppression. And I think the most
11 clear data that you see is on the suppression side and you can see it in the numbers
12 and what's happening and in the conversation that the Chief is having with you. I do
13 want to tell you, share some definitions with you, because they will define the work of
14 performance measurement going forward. For us, we defined youth very broadly. We
15 pick the age from 5 to 22. So school age children essentially, going all the way forward.
16 And the reason we picked as low as five is in, and in a lot of the community-based work
17 the ability to have good out of school programming, not just at the high school level but
18 in middle school and elementary school age kids is a very strong prevention activity.
19 The more we're able to wrap around these children and provide, you know, constructive
20 activities for them, the less likely it is as they get older that they would be inclined, it
21 would help with their cultururation and their adjustment to the school environment and to
22 society, especially for immigrant youth, but continuing on forward, it would create a
23 pattern of engagement, positive engagement, going into their middle school and high
24 school years. We wanted to focus on out of school time, and we defined that as time
25 between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., which is when most of the criminal, the gang activity
26 is shown to peak. At risk and risky behavior, we focused very particularly on the
27 negative impact those behaviors would have and coming at it from a behavioral
28 perspective on the health, safety, and wellbeing of individual youth. We didn't pick a
29 community perspective, because the risk is really to that youth, how they're engaging to
30 their health, safety, and wellbeing, which will then have larger community impact, but we
31 wanted to start there. Access was another definition that we wanted to focus on, which
32 includes program location and timing which would determine whether the County is
33 offering services, the appropriate services at the appropriate time so that folks can,
34 individuals and families, youth and families can access those services. Positive, which
35 what does positive really mean? We wanted again to define that in the terms of the
36 youth's health, safety, and wellbeing, what would enhance the youth's health, safety,
37 and wellbeing indicators? Quality activities, we defined those as meeting an
38 accreditation or certification benchmarks. Are there standards out there for programs
39 that have already been developed? Caring and competent adults, this went beyond
40 accreditation because there are many people in the community who are mentors, who
41 may not meet an accreditation or a certification standard, but met certain standards
42 around customer satisfaction and competencies that the Department would develop.
43 You meet these competencies and that's what makes, enables you to be a mentor to a
44 youth. And then gang activity was specifically limited to gang crimes or illegal activities.



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1 So once we have these baseline definitions, we think we can go forward and start
2 developing the benchmarks and the metrics that will respond to you. We would be able
3 to say, you know, we were able to mitigate risk, we were able to do X or Y, and then
4 what was each of our contribution towards a measure like that? The County Stats staff
5 are now working with us to build those performance measures so we can then
6 periodically come back and report on. The question that you asked about behavioral
7 indicators, I just wanted to respond that Maryland Choices, which is the County's
8 wraparound service provider actually has very close relationships with our Street
9 Outreach Network staff. And when youth are in need, or have behavioral issues and are
10 in need, there is actually a program that, for at risk gang youth, that triggers intervention
11 through Maryland Youth Choices and their menu of providers. I think we have some
12 good data around that, that's – to successes and, if I may just, if you'll just bear with me
13 for one second, 91.7% of children who were served remained at a very low restrictive
14 level of placement. So they didn't escalate in terms of placement. And 89.4% of youth
15 served participated in school work or other established activities through Maryland
16 Choices, so it is in fact, having an impact. The Chief also mentioned the Crossroads
17 Youth Opportunities Program. Just to tell you, 84, they served 302 youth and families in
18 FY07, this is '07 data, and 84% of youth interviewed reported that they would refuse a
19 friend's invitation to get re-involved in gang activity, and 64% of youth interviewed stated
20 that they had more ability to control their anger. These are sort of, you know, clearly not
21 particularly scientific, I mean, it's just based on survey instruments that were
22 administered on participating youth. But in general, I did want to, this one is pretty
23 helpful. Street Outreach Network's only been in place since fall of last year, so not since
24 the summer. By the time the County Stats hearing was held in April, they had served
25 about 81 youth throughout the County and 64 had been previously arrested, but since
26 the Street Outreach Network got involved, only 13 were rearrested, and 53 had been
27 suspended, but only 7 were re-suspended. So it's very preliminary data. We're going to
28 do a lot more work on outcomes, clearly, your interest is seeing that we deliver on the
29 outcomes. Similarly, each of us has individual performance data, output and outcomes
30 data. What we want to do is be able to baseline that in the clusters of prevention,
31 intervention, and suppression and be able to get back to you and be able to standardize
32 these, and say to you, well, this is the level of impact that we're having with the work
33 that we're doing. So I hope that that's helpful in answering your questions. Thank you.

34
35 Councilmember Andrews,

36 Thank you. First, all right, let's go first to Councilmember Elrich and then to
37 Councilmember Ervin.

38
39 Councilmember Elrich,

40 So how close are we to the point where if I asked you, what do we do in X part of the
41 County, that you could lay out every program, what I spend, and who goes, who
42 attends, and what the purpose is? Because, I mean, I look at the lists that were on here
43 and I know that it's a fraction of, you know, the number of groups we fund.



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1 Uma Ahluwalla,
2 Right.

3
4 Councilmember Elrich,
5 I didn't see the Kennedy Cluster initiative and you mentioned the Kennedy Cluster
6 initiative, and I went back, as you said that, I said did I miss that, but I didn't, unless it
7 was subsumed under some other category, I didn't see that.

8
9 Uma Ahluwalla,
10 Right. I will tell you, the mapping exercise that we engaged in in Kennedy Cluster to
11 map out all the services and who is providing them both public and private, was pretty
12 exhaustive and I don't think we have a similar map in every other geographical cluster in
13 the County. It is something, the best we have right now, in addition to, I mean, we have
14 a clear listing of all the programs that the County is investing under the Positive Youth
15 Development initiative, but that's not a comprehensive list of all activities occurring with
16 youth. There's more funded in other places, you know, through other initiatives or other
17 state or County programs that are not necessarily captured here. What is captured here
18 is funding that's coming directly through the Positive Youth Development initiative. To
19 map out everything that's available to youth and families in the community as, you
20 know, experienced under Kennedy is a pretty exhaustive effort. And it took, I mean, we
21 had consultants helping us do that mapping process. We also, I mean, the other thing
22 we do have is the Collaboration Council website, Info Montgomery, that has sort of a
23 listing of services. But I think it's a work in progress for us. I don't think we've got it all
24 mapped out complete.

25
26 Gabe Albornoz,
27 On a program by program basis, some programs are much further along than others.
28 What we're trying to do as part of this initiative, and one of the things that the
29 community-based collaborative work did was to map out within those specific
30 communities what programs and services were available to folks. So eventually, we
31 want to get to where we can respond very clearly, and systematically and tell you, this is
32 what is going on here. At this point I'm comfortable in saying that very soon as part of
33 this initiative will all County funded programs through particularly government agencies
34 will certainly be able to provide you with that information.

35
36 Councilmember Elrich,
37 I guess, I find it frustrating. I understand that it can be a daunting task to put it all
38 together but, for example, we had this discussion with the school board. And we're
39 talking about we need, we've got these kids who we know are being, who aren't doing
40 terribly well, and we talked about what we want to do on the academic side and that the
41 schools need to do that, and what we're expecting the Rec Department to do
42 supplemental on the other side. To not have a handle on what else is out there, both
43 what the programs are and what it costs, I find just complicates this task. Because, for
44 example, if we decided, if we were to decide that school is the best place to try to



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1 capture these kids and hold them for services and access, and I don't know the full
2 range of resources that are available through everything else we fund, I don't know
3 whether it's an insurmountable task to fund school programs, or whether if we were to
4 refocus money we're putting someplace else in the school programs and we focus the
5 effort to bring kids to programs there, if it would work. And I think that we're going to
6 have a hard time getting a handle around what works or how to make something work
7 until we can get a handle on what we do, and what it costs us to do it. You know, I
8 would certainly like, I mean, I started asking for this, I think it was July, maybe it was
9 August, but it was July, and I would certainly like by the end of this year that we can
10 have some decent map of what this County does, and where it does it. And I mean, I'm
11 not asking for performance measures by the end of this year, and come back and tell
12 me whether everything worked, because every program, god knows is going to have to
13 have its own performance measures and we don't even know what everything is. But
14 just to start to know what we're doing, and where we're doing it, and how many kids are
15 engaged in it, I think would be progress. Then we could have this discussion which I
16 think is an ongoing discussion with the school system that what we are jointly going to
17 do to make sure these kids succeed. And without a picture of what we're doing and how
18 much it's costing us, that's hard.

19
20 Uma Ahluwalia,

21 You know, it depends on what kind of mapping you want. It's not that difficult for us to
22 map the resources that the County is funding. I just want to say what's been so powerful
23 about the Kennedy experience is that the amount of NGO contribution there is in every
24 community and that's the mapping that's much harder to do. That's what gives you the
25 most comprehensive picture. I'm anxious about getting that done by December for the
26 entire County. I just don't think we have the resources to pull that off, respectfully, I just
27 want to say, if what you, you know, we could pick the community by community by
28 community, but to do a comprehensive mapping process like this, you know, we're all
29 so, and I do mean this, and this was one of the things that Councilmember Praisner
30 would always talk about, wanting to do a GIS effort, you know, to be able to look at the
31 geographic, you know, map of a community and know exactly what resources are
32 where, when, and how. And it would be a dream come true for all of us. We're certainly
33 not saying we don't want to do this, I'm just saying that the level of effort required to
34 map what you want is a thorough community picture, because it's not adequate if you
35 don't know what the churches and the local nonprofits are bringing to the table, and
36 what resources they're bringing to the table that are outside of County government.
37 Because that's relevant to the conversation too. I just am not sure that we could pull this
38 off by December. I know the level of effort it took with the consultant helping us to map
39 the entire Kennedy Cluster was pretty, and it's very comprehensive. So I think it's a
40 conversation, I would love to have more conversation with you about sort of what kind of
41 work plan we put together, and how we get there, and what it would take, but it wouldn't
42 be the existing resources through December. I just don't see us being able to get there
43 and then we'll be standing in front of you in December, giving you excuses for why it
44 didn't happen, and I don't think that's a reasonable place to go.



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1
2 Councilmember Elrich,
3 No, that wouldn't be very entertaining.

4
5 Uma Ahluwalla,
6 Thank you.

7
8 Councilmember Elrich,
9 Can we know what the County does? I mean, what timeframe could you give us for
10 giving us a map of everything we do as a County? If we pay for it, tell me where it is.

11
12 Uma Ahluwalla,
13 I think all the Departments that are involved in the Positive Youth Development initiative,
14 we could probably commit to mapping our services by community and trying to do
15 something and it would be helpful if there was any GIS researches we could attach to
16 the work, but we'll try, well, how about if we go back and take that assignment and
17 come back to you with what's feasible by 1:00.

18
19 Councilmember Elrich,
20 Well, I guess I'd like.

21
22 Uma Ahluwalla,
23 If that could work, that'd be helpful instead of.

24
25 Councilmember Elrich,
26 I would like to get deeper than what you've called Positive Youth Development activities
27 because some of these aren't terribly different than what could be other recreation
28 programs or, you know, I didn't see any mention of what Parks and Recreation is
29 running out of the Parks Department. I mean, here we've got this other quasi Recreation
30 Department putting on programs to attract kids, I mean, it seems to me that at least we
31 ought to know what government is spending, if it's a school program or a youth
32 program, I want to know, and I might be happy to call them all Positive Youth
33 Development and view them all, essentially, they are all anti-gang activity. I mean,
34 anything you do to put a kid on a different path is an anti-gang activity. I mean, we didn't
35 use to call it that. It just used to be raising the kids so they would grow up and function.
36 But, you know, it seems to me that we need to know this. So don't limit yourself to the
37 list of things that have fallen under it. But if you run a program, we ought to know where
38 it is, and what it does. Then we can deal with the nonprofits that aren't getting money
39 from the County and running their own things separately and maybe you can give us a
40 timeline for you'd subsume that and what do you learn, what did you learn from the
41 Kennedy Cluster in terms of the difficulty of putting all of that information together. I just
42 want a starting point, as what does the County do?

43
44 Natalie Canter,



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1 Perhaps to make things a little bit more complex, we've been, we have through the
2 community-based collaboratives have actually begun eliciting nontraditional kinds of
3 programs from the community. They could be a small religiously-based program,
4 something that a group of volunteers is running, and we have got a fairly robust list of
5 those programs, but they haven't been tested yet. They haven't been researched in
6 terms of who is eligible, if there is costs, et cetera. We have gotten a small amount of
7 funding. We are going to be hiring staff to try to find out what those programs, you
8 know, where they are, what their hours are, all the things that would make it a useful
9 tool. That is happening now.

10
11 Councilmember Andrews,
12 Okay. Councilmember Ervin.

13
14 Councilmember Ervin,
15 Just a couple quick questions about the budget, your budget. I was very curious about
16 the August 8, 2007 memo. I'm looking forward to seeing the most recent data, but
17 according to last year around this time if you look at the racial makeup of gangs, they're
18 still predominantly black. But the focus doesn't appear to be in that direction. For
19 example, I'm not saying this as a criticism, I'm trying to figure out how we're spending
20 the money, and if we're getting the biggest bang out of our money. We are looking at a
21 gang prevention initiative to serve at risk Latino youth, outreach to girls involved in gang
22 activity, or at risk for involvement with gangs, street outreach workers to provide
23 services to gang involved youth in underserved parts of the County, and at the same
24 time, I was looking at that, I took a look at what the County Council received in our
25 packets this past weekend on Council grant applications. And so, there are grant
26 applications from Big Brothers Big Sisters of National Capital Area, Boys and Girls
27 Clubs, Community Bridges, College Tracks, YMCA, Liberties Promise, and Long Branch
28 Athletic Association, so we have all of these NGO's, these nonprofits coming to use
29 seeking our assistance in funding their budgets. Many of those budgets are clearly for
30 what Councilmember Elrich was describing as any program that helps keep youth
31 engaged could be seen as, you know, anti-gang kinds of nonprofit organizations. So all
32 of these nonprofits coming to the Council, I'm sure they've all also made their ask of the
33 County Executive. So we do have this issue about how we're trying to engage, not only
34 at the County government level, but also in our communities through our nonprofit
35 sector. I have a question about how, what's the, how do I say this? How we're really
36 engaging this community of Latino youth and African American youth, are they different,
37 or are there different ways you're reaching out to them? I remember last year, asking
38 the question about, in terms of the Police Department's outreach, do you have bilingual
39 police officers on the street? Are any of them engaged in any of these programs to
40 outreach in the Latino community? I think that's a really good and important way to
41 spend our resources if we're actually targeting those youth. I said a lot, but what I'm
42 trying to get to is, if you look at the data, the data tells us that there are still more African
43 American youths involved in gangs than Latino, but that's not what we read about in the



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1 newspapers and that's not how it's been sort of talked about in our communities, so if
2 you could speak to that.

3
4 Tom Manger,

5 Well, I think you will be pleased with the community-based collaboratives. I mean, we
6 are seeking to address exactly what you bring up. I mean, historically, people have
7 looked at this as a Latino issue. There are two types of gangs in Montgomery County.
8 There are ethnic based gangs and there are neighborhood based gangs. The
9 neighborhood based gangs are diverse in some ways, but primarily African American
10 gangs. They're generally smaller. They're tied to a particular neighborhood. The Latino
11 gangs are ethnic based. It's your country of origin that identifies you with a particular
12 gang. Those are larger gangs. And the fact is that what we've seen is that they're
13 generally, they've been involved in more serious crime than the neighborhood type
14 gangs. Now, the neighborhood gangs are catching up. I mean, over the past couple of
15 years we're seeing more serious crime coming out of some of the neighborhood gangs.
16 But I think what you'll, when we went to this community-based approach, it was exactly
17 because we didn't want to say that one size fits all, we're going to have these gang
18 programs or Positive Youth Development programs and we're going to put one here,
19 we're going to put one there. We're tailoring it to the community. I think what you will
20 hear from the different communities is they're targeting the kids that need it. The one in
21 Germantown, more African American gang members there. The one in Silver Spring, it's
22 more Latino gang members. But it's a combination of looking at each community, what
23 they need, and part of that is identifying the kids who are at risk in those neighborhoods.
24 We're doing a better job with this effort in addressing exactly what you're talking about.

25
26 Councilmember Ervin,
27 All right.

28
29 Natalie Canter,

30 I'd like to speak for a moment about the community-based collaboratives. I can really
31 only speak intelligently for the one that I'm handling, but of course, there are
32 collaborative in the Up County region, in Silver Spring, and now there's a new one in
33 east County. I'm doing the one that is based, it's actually coincides with the Kennedy
34 Cluster area. Our CBC targets the Hewitt Bell Corridor. And we've had three meetings,
35 we're going to have another one next week. We've gotten a huge turnout. Certainly, the
36 nonprofits, the faith community, the usual kinds of stakeholders, but the part that I'm
37 pleased about, is we're getting both parents and youth at each meeting. And we've had
38 between 100 and to a low of 75 people at each meeting. About a third to a half have
39 been young people, middle school, high school. And they, it's been a bit like a youth
40 speak out. We have learned a lot from the young people, in addition, to the goals that
41 we've had, which are to map the resources, to see where the gaps are, and to
42 strategize for a way to increase the resources. But the young folks have told us that
43 what they want to see are ESOL classes, jobs, and life skill training, and we are going to
44 have a job fair. They say that they're lacking computers, and internet access. They want



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1 mentoring, and homework assistance, better transportation to our out of school
2 activities. I think all of those are kind of things that we would have assumed would be
3 said, but then there was one thing, that I certainly did not assume that I was going to
4 hear and that is that our young people are telling us that they're hungry. They want real
5 food at these after school activities. They say they're tired of having snacks. They want
6 hot meals. They have, a lot of times they have parents who are working two jobs and
7 there may be things in the refrigerator, but they don't go home and fix them, or if they
8 do, they're cold things. They said to us repeatedly, they want nutritious meals. We've
9 begun talking to, communicating back to the agencies that are responsible for getting
10 some of those things. I know it's a complex thing, but that is being worked upon. The
11 other thing that we found out is that, as I mentioned earlier, there are a lot of
12 nontraditional programs out there. People were very excited when they saw some of
13 these nontraditional programs. We all know that we've got to share this information, but
14 what was also communicated to us is that nobody in the community wants some big old
15 book that goes onto a shelf full of information. They want the information transmitted in
16 some kind of innovative way. I don't know what that innovative way is yet. But I think
17 that that's a task that we're all going to have to figure out.

18
19 Councilmember Ervin,
20 Go ahead.

21
22 Uma Ahluwalia,
23 I just wanted to give you a little bit of data in response to your question earlier. Of the
24 108 youth that the Street Outreach Network staff worked with, 68 of those youth were
25 African American, and 21 were girls. A lot of the mediations that are occurring are
26 between rival gangs that are African American and Latino instead of between and
27 amongst them. But there is also activity between gangs of the same ethnicity. I think the
28 response is happening for all communities at least in terms of a lot of the intervention
29 and early intervention activities.

30
31 Councilmember Ervin,
32 Well, I'm going to end with where I think we started, and I really appreciate Marc Elrich's
33 commitment and hard work on this subject and in this area, because I hate to come
34 here and sit at Council and hear how many more young people are ending up in jail,
35 when we know on the front end we're not doing what we need to be doing to keep them
36 out of jail, that breaks my heart because I know we have the wherewithal to make that
37 happen. And so, the Kennedy Cluster Project, I believe is going to be of critical
38 importance to us in terms of the amount of information that we're gathering and how we
39 can use this data better, the information that you just brought to us about food. We
40 know these children are poor. We know one in four of our students qualify for free and
41 reduced meals. We think the number is probably higher. Those are the families that
42 actually applied. There are many, many more that we believe don't even apply for the
43 free and reduced meals. We know the Ever Farms, which is the rate when the kids
44 move beyond elementary school into high school is sometimes double that number. We



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1 do have poverty in Montgomery County, it is serious. It is impacting these kids in school
2 and the one thing I would like to see the budget, you know, expand, the area I would
3 like to see it expand is in the area of jobs for youth in the summer. What in the world are
4 we going to do this summer when these kids are let out of school, and they have no
5 place to be, they have no activities signed up for them, they have no jobs. It's just a
6 recipe for disaster. And so I would like to see us put way more money into a jobs
7 program than we have a \$50,000 line item, I believe it is. So I appreciate all of you for
8 all your commitment and your hard work, I know you're working really hard. That's not
9 lost on me. It's just that I look at the numbers, I see the data. These kids are ending up
10 in jail. It's directly from the schoolhouse to the jail house. We know that. We need to do
11 a little bit more to capture where these kids are in our schools.

12
13 Councilmember Elrich,

14 Could I dovetail on that just, because Valerie, you touched a sore point with me, which
15 is, going to Ocean City in the summer and seeing hundreds if not thousands of eastern
16 European kids brought over here to work in Ocean City to get training and work in the
17 hotels and work in the restaurants and no equivalent recruitment program for all the kids
18 in Maryland that don't have jobs in the summer and nothing to do. This just totally
19 baffles me why we're going to eastern Europe to bring people over here. We've got
20 plenty of kids right here who need jobs. And it seems to be one thing, you know, it's a
21 state issue at one level, why we even allow them to do that. But why we don't have,
22 make some effort maybe to try to line up jobs with kids in Montgomery County over
23 there or for that matter, Baltimore or Prince George's County, just totally escapes me.
24 But for the last few years I go down there and I'm just like stunned by what I see. I know
25 that I could drive through any neighborhood around here, and find kids wandering
26 around on the street with nothing to do, and saying they wish they had a job. In Ocean
27 City, it's an apartment, you know, they get the meals, they get, you know, supervision.
28 And this is, it's like, it makes no sense to me. It's not like we have got a shortage of
29 people that don't need work here.

30
31 Councilmember Andrews,

32 All right, well, there are number of follow up items to come back to us with. I want to
33 thank Councilmember Elrich for taking the lead on this as well. The, and I think it's very
34 appropriate, and this is something I think should be done, and the County has started to
35 do this with all of its initiatives that effect particular populations is to solicit the input of
36 the people you are trying to work with and help and consider it in developing the
37 programs. I'm glad to see that that has been an important part of the approach here.
38 There was on circle 10, there's a highlighted quote from the 2004 taskforce report,
39 which was the County Gang Prevention Taskforce, that says all new programs that
40 address prevention, intervention, and suppression must be evidence-based with
41 measurable outcomes and must have evaluation programs built in to monitor their
42 effectiveness. How are we doing in following that approach?

43
44 Tom Manger,



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1 I mean, we're aspiring to get there. I mean, it, all of us are pulling together performance
2 measures. I mean, the reason that it was written in there is because that's what we
3 heard from the Council. That's what we heard from the Executive at the time. That's
4 what they wanted. The people that were funding these initiatives, that's what they were
5 asking for. That's what, that's our goal is to get there. And I think that we're getting ever
6 closer and with the County Stat program, it's going to get us there.

7
8 Gabe Albornoz,
9 We've got it on a program by program basis. Now that we're connecting these pieces,
10 that's going to be the next evolution.

11
12 Councilmember Andrews,
13 Okay.

14
15 Uma Ahluwalia,
16 And the last thing I'd say is, for us, our staff are very, very much plugged into the
17 national scene. They know what interventions are working in which communities. I can't
18 tell you how much Luis gets on the airways and circulates and broadcasts to everybody
19 articles and interventions and says, look, it validates what we're doing locally in the
20 County. To that extent, I think we're definitely plugged into what's happening in other
21 communities and whether we're doing cutting edge services or not and I think we'll just
22 continue that effort.

23
24 Councilmember Andrews,
25 Okay. Councilmember Berliner.

26
27 Councilmember Berliner,
28 Just one final observation, as you look at the jobs opportunities, I would urge you to look
29 collectively at green jobs. This is something that our County is going to be promoting. It
30 is something that, training our youth to be home inspectors, understanding how they
31 can retrofit existing homes. To the extent to which you can tie the job opportunities to
32 where we hope our economy is going, other important objectives of the County with
33 respect to the environment, these are things that I think this Council would be most
34 receptive to.

35
36 Gabe Albornoz,
37 I agree, and we're actually piloting a green camp this summer for our first summer, so,
38 and it's sold out. So we're expecting it to go quite well. I just also want to echo the
39 earlier sentiment about the importance of job placements. We used the 50,000 from last
40 year's budget through one of the nonprofit providers and ended up placing about a
41 dozen kids as counselors in our various programs this past summer, which worked out
42 quite well. So we hope to do that again in the future. It's a drop in the bucket, but the
43 framework is there.



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1 Councilmember Andrews,
2 Okay. Thank you. I think this was a good start. Thank you Councilmember Elrich. Thank
3 you all. It's a good segue right into the next and last item for the morning, which is the
4 proposed Operating Budget for the Department of Recreation. Councilmember Elrich is
5 going to take us through that as well. Let's start by having those at the table introduce
6 themselves for people listening in. Vivian, why don't you start.

7
8 Vivian Yao,
9 Vivian Yao, Council staff.

10
11 Rita Howard,
12 Rita Howard, Recreation.

13
14 Robin Riley,
15 Robin Riley, Recreation.

16
17 Gabe Albornoz,
18 Gabe Albornoz, Director of the Recreation Department.

19
20 Jennifer Bryant,
21 Jennifer Bryant, Office of Management and Budget.

22
23 Mary Beck,
24 Mary Beck, Office of Management and Budget.

25
26 Councilmember Andrews,
27 Thank you all. Councilmember Elrich.

28
29 Councilmember Elrich,
30 The overview, the Committee spent a lot of time working on the budget for the
31 Recreation Department. It was lots of fun. We came pretty close to the.

32
33 Councilmember Andrews,
34 It's the department of fun, right?

35
36 Councilmember Elrich,
37 Yes. It seems like recreation almost. I hardly knew I was working.

38
39 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
40 Ask yourself that in two weeks.

41
42 Councilmember Elrich,
43 This was all prep for two weeks from now. We came pretty close to the Executive's
44 recommended \$32.4 million. We reduced \$259,000, and restored about 191,500. We're



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1 off by about \$68,000 between the two. I would say the Department has a combination of
2 cuts to personnel and additions. I was actually glad to see that if you look at our, at the
3 bottom of page 2, that the work years is only up by five which is good. It should be a
4 model for everything I think, minimal increase in work years. As basically, it's pretty
5 close to same services as we could get in a very difficult budget year. There are some
6 issues, a little delayed Center opening that some people might want to talk about. I try
7 to maintain a sense of humor about it. [multiple speakers]. The softball. And I mean, I
8 will just follow on to the earlier discussion. I'm not going to reiterate the whole thing
9 here, but we did continue to fund the Sports Academies and Rec Extra. But I can
10 promise you that I'm looking at this really, really closely. And if, for the money we're
11 spending if we can't show that we're not able to affect more children and affect them
12 more dramatically, I really do think we need to look at other models of doing things. I
13 want to encourage the Department, I would say for any program you run, not to be
14 vested in the program you run, but vested in the mission. And if programs don't
15 accomplish the mission, then you don't have any reason to be loyal to the program.
16 Your goal is what are you trying to accomplish in your mission. I fell sometimes we get
17 caught up in focusing on, we started this program, we're going to defend this program, I
18 have got to keep this program going, as opposed to being willing to step back when we
19 need to and say, I started this program for a reason, I'm not getting to what I set out to
20 do, maybe there's another way of doing it. From my point of view, it's not a matter of
21 money, it's a matter of efficacy. Do you want to kind of trod through this now?

22
23 Vivian Yao,

24 You summarized some of the basics about the Committee's recommendations. Just to
25 point out, the adjustments to the Executive's budget recommended by the Committee is
26 listed on the chart on page 1. There are four adjustments there with the corresponding
27 discussion in the packet, the page numbers. Also the first chart on page 2 lists key
28 items included in the base of the Department's budget recommended for approval by
29 the Committee. Did you just want to maybe walk through some of the key items in the
30 packet?

31
32 Councilmember Elrich,
33 Yeah, go ahead.

34
35 Vivian Yao,

36 Okay. Program enhancements recommended by the Executive are listed on pages 4
37 and 5 of your packet. The Committee recommends approval of funding for the Senior
38 Olympics, two additional summer fun center, one in Olney and one in Germantown, and
39 a pilot after school program at the Long Branch Community Center. The PHED
40 Committee also recommends delaying the opening of the Wisconsin Place Community
41 Recreation Center to Fiscal Year '10.

42
43 Councilmember Andrews,



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1 We got a flashing light on that one. Finish describing, and then we'll go to
2 Councilmember Berliner.

3
4 Vivian Yao,

5 In the Executive's budget the Center is scheduled to open in May of 2009. The delay
6 will result in a savings of \$180,000 in the Recreation Department budget. The
7 Committee recommended placing the expenses for the earlier opening in May of 2009
8 on the reconciliation list and an additional \$11,500 for maintenance of the facility has
9 been included on the reconciliation list for the Department that was moved over from
10 Park and Planning.

11
12 Councilmember Andrews,
13 Okay. Councilmember Berliner.

14
15 Councilmember Berliner,

16 I just wanted to share with my colleagues, make sure they appreciate the context here
17 as I've come to appreciate it which is that this was a community amenity that was hard
18 fought in exchange for the optional method of development that is going to create a lot
19 of additional density in the Friendship Heights area. And this is what the community got
20 for it. And this is what the developer has produced. By October of '08, that facility will be
21 sitting there ready to go, but for the one piece that the County pledged it would add to
22 make it operational. That piece is the fittings, which we don't have before us, and the
23 staff to run it. The notion that we will have this facility paid for by the developer, that the
24 community fought for in exchange for the density that's coming their way, sitting vacant,
25 in effect for an additional year, you know, is something that I'm going to ask my
26 colleagues to reconsider in the context of the reconciliation request. It just, it's not the
27 deal. The deal is that when you give a community additional density and in exchange for
28 that you give them an amenity, we can't be the ones walking from that aspect of the
29 deal. So, I appreciate that we don't have any votes before us today, but I did want to
30 make sure that my colleagues understand why I think this is important, that we restore
31 these dollars, why we need to look at the Park and Planning's dollars with respect to the
32 fittings and why I'll be urging reconsideration of this matter.

33
34 Councilmember Andrews,
35 Okay. Got Councilmember Ervin, then Councilmember Trachtenberg on deck.

36
37 Councilmember Ervin,

38 Yes, hi. I just have a question on page 2. The funding of the Teen Team, which includes
39 teen clubs, sponsor dances, activity nights, trips, teen centers, Rec Extra, et cetera. I'm
40 not on the PHED Committee. So I don't remember seeing any packet on that. But can
41 you just tell me where these sponsored dances happen and the activity nights? Just
42 curious, because I know that it's something that is a real big deal around the County that
43 teenagers don't have places to go in the evening and on weekends. I'd like to know
44 where those are.



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1
2 Gabe Albornoz,

3 My colleague, Melanie Coffin, who's the Manager of our Teen Team can provide
4 specifics, but I can give a general overview, and say that it's a combination of locations,
5 both recreation facilities as well as private facilities that we work with as well. The great
6 thing about the Teen Team is that we are able to leverage the programs that we have
7 through Sports Academies and Rec Extra to carry out a lot of programming that goes
8 into the weekends, and into the summers and during spring break. Just as one small
9 example, we partnered with Imagination Stage this year, and carried out a very
10 successful four day drama workshop and made it available to kids who would never
11 have otherwise have had this opportunity. It was this team that's in place that was able
12 to make it happen and really, you know, and that's just one small example. We also
13 partnered with the State's Attorney Office during spring break to do a basketball
14 tournament, where the State's Attorneys were actually coaching the various teams. And
15 again, that kind of programming takes coordination, takes a lot of planning and I'm very
16 proud of that team because I feel they do a very good job of that. Now Melanie can talk
17 about the actual programming and where they happen.

18
19 Melanie Coffin,

20 We program County wide, there are after hours that occur in Germantown, and
21 Wheaton, and the Potomac area. We do the frequency of those and the actual physical
22 activity, it might happen on a Friday night and in Germantown or Damascus, they may
23 prefer to have that be three on three basketball, whereas at Westland they might prefer
24 that to be a dance. And so we really go with the needs of the students. We are focusing
25 more so on our evenings and weekends in our targeted areas, which are represented
26 often by our Sports Academies or parts of those target areas. But we recruit, so if it's a
27 middle school program, we're in all 38 middle schools with the Rec Extra program and
28 we get the word out that way, so that structure is already in place, and it makes it easier
29 to get that additional coordination. I don't know if I answered your specific question.

30
31 Councilmember Ervin,

32 No you did. I think it's really important. I'm glad to see it because one of the things I
33 hear from parents most often, especially of preteen to, you know, high school aged
34 students is that they don't have enough to do, and that is the concern as we're moving
35 into the summer. There are going to be a lot of kids just hanging out. That's a recipe for
36 getting into trouble. So, the more we do the better it is for me. I mean, I would like to
37 always support doing more so that, you know, these young people have a place to go
38 and a place to be.

39
40 Melanie Coffin,

41 And in the summertime, we have got several different offerings. We've got our
42 counselors in training program that serves over 500 youth, that put them in, it's before
43 they can work, but after they can go to camp. It gives them some leadership training.
44 We've got sports skills camps that blossomed as part of an enhancement for Sports



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1 Academies. We've opened that to both middle and high school students. We've got four
2 different areas. We've got teen centers that we've expanded from four locations to six
3 locations by being a little creative with how we do those resources. Those involve
4 opportunities for students to visit the AFI, to go swimming, to have safe, supervised
5 environment. This year, as a brainchild of actually the rec specialists that have been
6 working with Rec Extra and with our leadership programs, we've included new mini
7 camps that are on leadership and career development. Those will actually be led by our
8 recreation specialists. And we've structured them such that students can earn student
9 service learning credit because there's some community give back there. Because our
10 CIT program is so popular, it's actually been full for about two months at almost all the
11 locations.

12
13 Councilmember Ervin,
14 I was going to ask you that next.

15
16 Melanie Coffin,
17 Yeah.

18
19 Councilmember Ervin,
20 Is everything already full up?

21
22 Melanie Coffin,
23 No. There are still some opportunities in our teen centers and there are some
24 opportunities in our free camps and so, what we're doing right now, like literally this
25 week is we're compiling all of the different flyers for all of the different programs for
26 young people. We're noting that things like the CIT program is full, but getting that out in
27 what I'm terming a teen record. Our record is a newsletter that we have been sending
28 out to our email lists so we'll make sure that the Council gets a copy of that to share with
29 their constituents.

30
31 Councilmember Ervin,
32 Great. Thank you.

33
34 Councilmember Andrews,
35 Okay. Councilmember Trachtenberg and then Councilmember Berliner.

36
37 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
38 Thank you Vice-President Andrews. I just wanted to make a brief comment about the
39 Wisconsin Place Community Rec Center and speak in support of what my colleague
40 Councilmember Berliner raised. You know, we're all aware of why the Rec Center was
41 proposed and why it was agreed to. And I think it's important that we continue to
42 prioritize it, given what we know about the growing needs of the seniors who very much
43 populate the community down there, but also the emergence of young families. The
44 area down there is very much a diverse community, but it's very clear to me, as



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1 someone who lives in District 1, that we are not able to meet the recreational needs, not
2 only of seniors, but young and growing families. So I will certainly support my colleague
3 in a motion to place that amount, the \$180,000 on the reconciliation list for consideration
4 of final approval by this body. I see this as something that we have an obligation to fund
5 and not just fund down the road, but now.

6
7 Councilmember Andrews,
8 Okay. Thank you. Councilmember Berliner.

9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 I thank my colleague for her support of that. I appreciate her long standing
12 understanding of that community's needs. I wanted to ask you folks going again to some
13 conversation we've had in the past with respect to teens and my staff teases me as to
14 how often I invoke my 17-year-old boy's experiences, but finding safe places for kids to
15 enjoy in the evening is very hard to do. So I wanted to hear more as to your plans for
16 evening activities for our teens. I saw what I perceived to be a line item that said
17 decreased costs for operating expenses for the teen club program by \$60,000. So I
18 wanted to make sure I understood the context of that proposed change and make sure
19 that it doesn't come at the expense of these kinds of programs where we're helping to
20 create environment for our teens so that they're not, so they've got safe, wholesome,
21 and fun places to go.

22
23 Gabe Albornoz,
24 I'll defer to Rita to talk specifically about the \$60,000, but before we go there, we're
25 doing several things internally to try to increase capacity. The first is, we're conducting,
26 we're going to be conducting very soon, in the next month and a half, a very
27 comprehensive program and facilities audit to find out what specifically is going on in
28 each one of our recreation centers. Because I think we've got room to grow, in fact, I
29 know we've got room to grow. One of the ways that we're going to get there, is because
30 we only have seasonal staff to cover only so much is through partnerships. And this
31 actually speaks to your point earlier about working with community-based organizations
32 and a number of the great institutions that are providing great services. Just as, I've got
33 a million examples, the one that immediately comes to mind is we're going to be
34 working with Pride Youth Services, Ludly Howard's group who runs some leadership
35 and mentoring programs, particularly for African American females and males. They're
36 going to be carrying the program out in our Wheaton Community Recreation Center and
37 we're providing the space and the staff support to make sure that they're okay. But the
38 actual program is going to be carried out about Ludly's group. That's just one small
39 example of where we're partnering with a number of different community-based
40 organizations to round out our programming so that if we can't offer it, we've got the
41 building, let's see if somebody else can offer it, and we'll take it from there. That's one
42 specific initiative. Now, Rita, can you talk specifically about the 60,000?

43
44 Rita Howard,



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1 Right. On the teen club program, the \$60,000 that will be reduced, there will be no
2 impact on programming or on services. That's money that has traditionally been under
3 spent. Several years ago, we had to go from, what we had, we had, the teen clubs had
4 their own checking accounts, which we found out was not legal. So OMB said, that's
5 okay, you tell us how much money you're going to bring in revenue and we will put that
6 much money in your budget. So it was totally a guesstimate as to what we were going
7 to do. Two years have gone by now, and that's just about the money that we're not
8 spending. It would have been for like admissions to King's Dominion, for ski trips, things
9 that we have to put in the budget because we have no other way of taking that money
10 and then turning around and paying for this. The money that we bring in has to go into
11 revenue. So we had to have the money in the budget first in order to pay for the
12 programs. We've found that our guesstimate was just a little bit too high. And rather
13 than just let it sit there, it's probably best to give it back.

14
15 Councilmember Berliner,
16 And our lack of ability to use it in other ways relates to what?

17
18 Rita Howard,
19 Revenue. It has to be 100% revenue retrieval.

20
21 Councilmember Berliner,
22 Has.

23
24 Rita Howard,
25 So, if we spend \$60,000, we have to bring \$60,000 in in revenue in order to keep the
26 money.

27
28 Councilmember Berliner,
29 How are you keeping that 60,000 in revenue in for King's Dominion or otherwise?

30
31 Rita Howard,
32 It was money that was left over, so we were okay. As long as we had the money left
33 over, we didn't have to have the revenue to match it.

34
35 Councilmember Berliner,
36 How do you typically create the revenue to match those?

37
38 Rita Howard,
39 Through fees. If we advertise a trip to King's Dominion and it's going to cost us \$38, we
40 charge \$38.

41
42 Councilmember Berliner,
43 So, if you had a teen party in which you had a band playing and you paid for the band
44 and you charged teens X dollars to come.



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1
2 Rita Howard,
3 Whatever the cost was.

4
5 Councilmember Berliner,
6 Whatever the cost was. That would qualify.

7
8 Rita Howard,
9 Yes.

10
11 Councilmember Berliner,
12 So my question in effect then is, why aren't we having 12 more parties in which we pay
13 teen bands, or, you know, 25 more parties in which we pay teen bands that are hot in
14 this community, and where we, you know, have evenings, so that kids don't have to go
15 to the 9:30 Club, kids don't have to hang out wherever they otherwise hang out?
16 [multiple voices]. I've been so good though.

17
18 Councilmember Elrich,
19 I saw Lou Reed there the other night. Really good for the kids to see.

20
21 Councilmember Berliner,
22 Okay, so how is it that we don't have the capacity to use these dollars as opposed to
23 having them sitting there?

24
25 Melanie Coffin,
26 Sure, absolutely, and I hope that your son just really doesn't mind you airing challenges
27 on cable access.

28
29 Councilmember Berliner,
30 Thank you for making it easier for me.

31
32 Melanie Coffin,
33 The teen clubs themselves attended the evening and weekends, they tend to be --, they
34 also are teen led, our counterparts within the community or our teen club directors,
35 program as much in the capacity that these teens are interested in. Some teen clubs
36 are incredibly active, some operate basically as ski clubs and that's the only thing that
37 they do as a teen club. We continue to provide some support, some ideas, suggestions.
38 But you also probably understand that your 17-year-old is involved, and has quite a bit
39 of homework, is involved in things that are outside.

40
41 Councilmember Berliner,
42 Not according to him.

43
44 Melanie Coffin,



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1 No homework, I know.

2
3 Councilmember Berliner,
4 [laughter]. Okay, okay.

5
6 Melanie Coffin,

7 There are certain parts of the County and the community that, although the ability to pay
8 for the entire cost of these opportunities is great, the kids are over programmed. We're
9 continuing to look at that, and we're continuing to grow. I guess what Rita's point was, is
10 that, we are trying to make that initial adjustment, because our estimation of what we
11 were going to be able to plan and program was too high when it got translated from the
12 checking accounts into the County. I will also give you another little bit of history. What
13 used to happen in teen clubs, used to be far more extensive. This was in traveling
14 before 9/11. We used to take teens to Florida. We used to take them way further when
15 there was not an issue with, as much issue with security. There was not as much issue
16 with our students being far away from their parents. So we have really ratcheted that
17 back quite a bit. So it has to be within a day's drive. That's our limit for our teen club
18 activities and so that does reduce some of the activities that may have occurred in the
19 past.

20
21 Councilmember Berliner,

22 So do I understand that the principal focus of the teen club has been things like ski
23 clubs and things of that nature?

24
25 Melanie Coffin,

26 Trips and opportunities, yes.

27
28 Councilmember Berliner,

29 Trips and opportunities.

30
31 Melanie Coffin,

32 And it could be bowling, it could be canoeing, it could be kayaking, but to be frank, there
33 are less and less young people that are, yea, we'll go and pay you in order to take us
34 kayaking.

35
36 Councilmember Berliner,

37 Right. So, given that, it seems to me that the focus of the teen club effort may need to
38 shift and be a little less ambitious. You know, my boy would love to ski, and I ski, but
39 quite frankly, in terms of the County's dollars do I think we ought to be subsidizing
40 people to go skiing? You know.

41
42 Melanie Coffin,

43 And we're not really subsidizing. The teen clubs themselves are.



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1 Councilmember Berliner,
2 I understand they pay for it.

3
4 Melanie Coffin,
5 Yeah. Yeah.

6
7 Councilmember Berliner,
8 But, if we're going to be putting this energy into teen clubs, I would rather have
9 weekend, evening activities where there are places for these kids to go that costs a lot
10 less that we could produce a lot more benefit, so it seems to me that we may need to
11 evolve our thinking with respect to the mission of teen clubs as I appreciate it based on
12 this conversation. I agree this has just been a brief conversation.

13
14 Melanie Coffin,
15 Sure.

16
17 Councilmember Andrews,
18 Okay.

19
20 Councilmember Elrich,
21 Make a quick comment?

22
23 Councilmember Andrews,
24 Yes, go ahead.

25
26 Councilmember Elrich,
27 This is just to tie into the earlier discussion about Positive Youth Development. When
28 you look on page 2, you've got over \$10 million in programs that you run for youth. But if
29 I looked at the budget in the Positive Youth Development, you're only showing \$2
30 million. This is an example, many of these things here are just as important, if not as
31 important, as the programs that are listed on here. So, when I mean a comprehensive
32 map, this is what I mean by a comprehensive map.

33
34 Gabe Albornoz,
35 And I agree.

36
37 Councilmember Andrews,
38 Okay. Regarding the Wisconsin Place, my understanding is that unless we take a
39 different action, there's 191,500 that will be on the reconciliation list.

40
41 Marlene Michaelson,
42 Right.

43
44 Councilmember Andrews,



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1 Right, 180,000 in the Rec Department, 11,500 in the Park and Planning for facility
2 maintenance.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,
5 My understanding if I could Council Vice-President, is that it had to be on the
6 reconciliation list because it wasn't in your original budget, so it wasn't as though, am I
7 correct?.

8
9 Vivian Yao,
10 Actually, no, that is not correct.

11
12 Councilmember Berliner,
13 The PHED Committee did take it out, I mean, affirmatively?

14
15 Vivian Yao,
16 The PHED Committee recommended to take it out, and then put it on the reconciliation
17 list. The funding currently for Wisconsin Place is in the Executive's budget to open in
18 May of 2009 and it's \$180,000.

19
20 Councilmember Berliner,
21 Gotcha.

22
23 Marlene Michaelson,
24 Just a clarification, it was in the Rec Department's budget, but it was not in the Park and
25 Planning budget.

26
27 Councilmember Berliner,
28 Planning, thank you.

29
30 Marlene Michaelson,
31 For their component.

32
33 Councilmember Berliner,
34 That's right. Got it.

35
36 Marlene Michaelson,
37 So that component, the PHED Committee felt had to be on the reconciliation list.

38
39 Councilmember Berliner,
40 Gotcha. This one was.

41
42 Marlene Michaelson,
43 In the, the Rec Department's piece.



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1 Councilmember Berliner,
2 This was a discretionary mistake that my colleagues made as opposed to the other.
3
4 Marlene Michaelson,
5 I won't comment as to whether they made any mistake. [laughter].
6
7 Unidentified
8 Trying to balance the budget Roger.
9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 I understand.
12
13 Councilmember Andrews,
14 All right.
15
16 Councilmember Elrich,
17 Do you want to make those overarching comments about the hard times here?
18
19 Councilmember Berliner,
20 No, no, no.
21
22 Councilmember Andrews,
23 All right, so it will be, it is on the reconciliation list.
24
25 Marlene Michaelson,
26 Yes.
27
28 Councilmember Andrews,
29 Okay. All right. Are there any other questions that Committee members have about any
30 other parts of this budget? It's very straightforward, the rest of the packet I think. Okay.
31 All right. Well, without objection, that's approved, and thank you all.
32
33 Unidentified
34 Thank you.
35
36 Councilmember Andrews,
37 And we'll be back at 1:30 for worksession on the Park and Planning Operating Budget.

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TRANSCRIPT
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Michael Knapp, President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Phil Andrews, Vice-President
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



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1 Council President Knapp,
2 Okay. We ready? Okay. Good afternoon. Welcome to round two of the full Council
3 budget discussion. We are turning to the FY09 Operating Budget for the Maryland
4 National Capital Park and Planning Commission. We have both Park and Planning
5 before us. It's ugly. It's ugly out there. So I will begin to walk through since I have been
6 Chair of the Committee for all of a month now, I may rely on Ms. Michaelson to help me
7 manage through all of the pieces. But before we get started, let me have the folks from
8 Park and Planning introduce themselves for our viewing audience.

9
10 Royce Hanson,
11 I'm Royce Hanson, I'm Chairman of the Planning Board and Park Commission.

12
13 Mary Bradford,
14 I'm Mary Bradford, I'm Director of Parks, Montgomery County.

15
16 Mike Riley,
17 I'm Mike Riley, I'm Deputy Director of Parks.

18
19 Rollins Stanley,
20 Rollins Stanley, Director of Planning.

21
22 Alison Davis,
23 Alison Davis, Chief Management Services Planning Department.

24
25 Council President Knapp,
26 Welcome. Thank you all very much. And welcome Mr. Stanley for your first whole
27 budget discussion. Lucky Guy. We'll start with just a brief overview and then we'll go
28 into the Planning side. Major changes, actually, well, let me start from the summary. In
29 summary, the PHED Committee recommends reducing the MNCPPC budget by
30 \$17,241,000 which brings the budget to the same funding level as recommended by the
31 Executive. Achieving this level of funding significantly impacts the ability of the
32 Commission to provide critical service as will be demonstrated in this memorandum. To
33 address this, the Committee recommends funding \$6,805,000 on the reconciliation list.
34 And so we'll walk through that so you can see how we get there from here. We had four
35 very good discussions. We worked very closely with both the Park and Planning
36 portions to get to the numbers that we did. I don't think anyone is thrilled with where we
37 are, but I think it's, if we can do what's on the reconciliation list, it gets us to a point that
38 is manageable. If you look on page 2, the total requested FY09 budget for the agency
39 for all funds, including self-supporting funds, debt service and reserve is 184.1 million,
40 an increase of \$52 million or 39.4% over the FY08 budget which you can see on page
41 44. The table below on page 2 summarizes the tax supported requests. Major changes,
42 the FY09 budget contains record increases for Parks and Planning Departments, and
43 that's as proposed, not where we ended up. The Planning Department expenditure is up
44 23%. Included in these increases are large subsidies for two self-supporting funds, 1.3



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1 million to subsidize the Enterprise Fund due to increasing losses and 2.2 million to
2 support the Special Revenue Fund for development and review and the Council
3 approved a \$739,000 subsidy in April 2008 as a special appropriation. We'll come back
4 and revisit both of those issues as we proceed through the document. As it relates to
5 program budget, the second year the budgets for the Department of Parks and Planning
6 are presented as program budgets which I think we have all have liked because you
7 begin to see how the people are working to deliver the services as opposed to just a line
8 item and a category, and they're not sure how that relates to the actual performance of
9 activities. If you delve into the vacancies and the lapse issues, we have the Committee
10 recommendation, recommends setting a lapse rate of 4.5% for the Planning Department
11 and 6.5% for the Department of Parks. Additions beyond these rates are discussed
12 below as non-recommended reductions. We had a significant discussion over lapse
13 rates, but decided that we were still kind of just niggling around the edges and so you'll
14 see what we have further down. Let me, since I neglected to do this, turn to the
15 Chairman real quickly, just to see if he had any opening remarks just to set the stage for
16 my colleagues.

17
18 Royce Hanson,
19 What I would like to do if it's all right Mr. President is deal with these as we get to each
20 Department rather than to try to do an overview, so if you've got some preliminary things
21 before we get to the Planning Department.

22
23 Council President Knapp,
24 Okay.

25
26 Royce Hanson,
27 Which I assume you want to do first.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 Let me continue through this overview and then.

31
32 Royce Hanson,
33 Yeah, I think that's probably.

34
35 Council President Knapp,
36 Okay. That makes sense.

37
38 Royce Hanson,
39 The best way.

40
41 Council President Knapp,
42 Okay. Questions yet. Retirement incentive program, the Committee recommendation
43 was that MNCPPC establish a retirement incentive program as a means of cutting
44 salary costs in FY09 and as a management tool to assist in reorganizations particularly



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1 in the Planning Department. One of the potential positive things of a difficult fiscal time
2 is the ability to kind of refocus and reorient and to streamline a little bit and that is one of
3 the things that we had as a course of our discussion was this is an opportunity to kind of
4 begin to reorient. And so we thought that similar to what we have done in County
5 government, to look at a retirement incentive program sets the same stage for us to
6 address some of those issues going forward. Gasby, or the OPEP payments, similar to
7 what we've seen when there are other proposals from County government, which is to
8 spread the Gasby payment over eight years and that was the Committee
9 recommendation which was consistent with what was submitted by the County
10 Executive. That will generate an additional total of about \$505,000 which was quickly
11 absorbed in the process. Administration Fund highlights. And as you will note on page
12 4, just in case the Chair missed this, there are italicized, bold, highlighted words I'm
13 suppose to read. But the Administration Fund includes bi-County Central Administrative
14 Services, the Commissioner's Office, and the Planning Department. The total budget
15 request for the Administration Fund is \$33,532,600 excluding the reserves, representing
16 a 25% increase, 25.6% increase. The Executive recommends \$27 million which is \$6.13
17 million less than the agency request and only 2.6% above the approved budget.
18 However, this is the part that I'm supposed to make sure I read, so everybody pay
19 attention, this is for emphasis. However, if the Planning Department continues to
20 subsidize the Development Review Special Fund as recommended by the PHED
21 Committee, the Planning Department will experience a net decrease of 5.6% as
22 compared to the FY08 budget. With this effective decrease, the Administration Fund will
23 experience a far greater impact than the Department of Parks and any other agency or
24 department of government. So I just wanted to lay that out there for everybody. So that
25 kind of sets the stage as we start to jump into the Planning Department programs. And
26 Mr. Leventhal has a question, then we will turn to the Chairman.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,

29 Okay. Well, you certainly got our attention, Mr. President. Do you want us, because, for
30 those of us who didn't have the benefit of the PHED Committee discussion on this,
31 should we wait until we get to that item so that you can explain to us what it is you just
32 said?

33
34 Council President Knapp,

35 Right. Yes. We will walk through all of the pieces.

36
37 Councilmember Leventhal,

38 Fourteen point, underline, bold face.

39
40 Council President Knapp,

41 It even worked last night at 11:00 when I was reading through all of this.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,

44 Okay. Because I heard you, but I need an explanation of what.



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1
2 Councilmember Andrews,
3 Could have put it in 3D.

4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 We will walk through that so you'll see how it fits. Basically, the short version is that if
7 we're not careful, the Planning Department doesn't just end up focusing on its core
8 mission, it actually undercut the core mission of the Planning Department and that's,
9 and I'm not sure anyone's necessarily looking at that, if we can at all avoid it recognizing
10 the difficult fiscal situation we have this year. So, but we'll walk through and you'll see
11 the numbers and how they play out over the, during the course of the discussion. Mr.
12 Chairman.

13
14 Royce Hanson,
15 Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just reemphasize the point that you just made. If we are
16 cut to the Executive's recommendation including the unfunding, essentially of much of
17 the development review function, we will have suffered greater cuts than any other
18 agency in County government. The, just a little bit of history. You all will recall, I'm sure,
19 that in approving the current year's budget, we undertook a substantially increased work
20 program and the direction to fill positions as fast as we could. We have been quite
21 successful in that regard. We've hired 31 new employees, 40% of whom are minorities.
22 We've hired a very good group of young people. And I think we're making substantial
23 inroads on the regulatory backlog that was established. We would like to be in a position
24 to meet expectations that will occur when the economy has an upturn, because much of
25 what we do has a great effect on the future property base of the County. We understand
26 the fiscal position of the County, and that the new initiatives that we proposed, we will
27 not be able to undertake. We felt that there were some important, couple of important
28 new things to do. Those clearly, we won't be able to do. The Department is looking at a
29 net increase of 5.6% compared to our current budget, even with the PHED Committee's
30 recommendations that provide some relief from the Executive's proposals, decrease,
31 I'm sorry. 5.6% decrease. The exacerbating factor is indeed the request for additional
32 support in the Administration Fund because of the reduction in income from the Special
33 Revenue Fund. We have at this point, a 7% reduction in applications, but about a 50%
34 reduction in fees because, while the number of applications has fallen, the size of the
35 applications has fallen far more. In a sense, what we're asking in the Administration
36 Fund is, or in the Special Revenue Fund is not a subsidy to the fund, it is support of the
37 staff necessary to carry out the development function for which the Special Revenue
38 Fund, because of its particular configuration and the decline in the overall market, is not
39 providing that full amount of funding. The Executive recommended not providing the
40 support in the Administration Fund and also not, basically, not performing the work. He
41 suggested raising the fees by about \$1.1 million and lowering expenditures by \$1.1
42 million. This results in an overall expenditure reduction of over 25% and if we're going to
43 do what we're legally required to do, that is not feasible. We know that the transfer is
44 necessary based on the current receipts. We have worked to try to reduce that amount,



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1 and we have had some success in that, taking into account some of the other proposed
2 reductions that are proposed by the Committee. About 90% of our budget goes to
3 salaries. Since we filled vacancies, we don't have a lot of vacancies to freeze. And the
4 reductions are, depending on where you ultimately end up, will produce major
5 adjustments in the master plan schedule. We think this will have intentionally negative
6 impacts, not only on short-term delivery of the work program, but also long-term harmful
7 consequences. Again, I appreciate the difficulty of the decisions that you have to make.
8 And we are willing to do our part. But we want you to fully understand as we go through
9 this discussion today the consequences of each level of support that may be achieved
10 or, as we think, underachieved. So, thank you.

11
12 Council President Knapp,

13 Thank you very much. And on the part of the Committee, I just wanted to start out by
14 saying that I thank the Commission for their efforts, everyone for putting the pieces
15 together that you have and for working with us to identify a number of options,
16 alternatives, and things that we can look at to try to address the issues that you've just
17 raised. The Committee wrestled with all of the various details that we will walk through
18 with my colleagues. And basically used as kind of our focus is, what is the core mission
19 of the Planning Department and really looked at development review and master plans
20 as kind of the two basic orientations as to what we're looking for Park and Planning, for
21 the Planning Department to do and used that as the basis for how we kind of worked on
22 creating the budget. The other piece that is somewhat more discretionary that we talked
23 about was rewrite of the zoning ordinance, which I think all of my colleagues have heard
24 a lot about over the course of the last six months, those who've been with the previous
25 Council heard about it a lot longer than that. It's something that is very long, very
26 cumbersome, and I think everyone recognizes needs to be redone. And so that is the
27 other, if you will, discretionary item that we've tried to maintain in the course of this
28 budget. So if you, beginning on page 5, the broad Committee recommendation was that
29 we do not support additional work in FY09 on the energy and environment plan,
30 sustainability indicators, other than completion of the FY08 work which the Planning
31 Department indicated would complete in early FY09, so later this fall, late summer or
32 fall. And does not support a new comprehensive of long-range infrastructure plan at this
33 time, although we're all interested in what it can be, just weren't sure how to get it done.
34 The Committee recommends the Department focus time and attention on the priorities I
35 just indicated, development review function, preparation of the zoning ordinance, and
36 preparation of master plans. If you turn to page 6, you will see the non-recommended
37 reductions to meet the Executive recommended funding level. The Committee
38 recommends a total of \$5,375,467 in reductions to the Planning Department budget and
39 further recommends that \$698,733 be placed on the reconciliation list so that the
40 Planning Department can continue to work on Council priorities in the work program. I
41 think probably the most significant element here, and I'm actually going to turn to
42 Marlene to kind of, if you will just walk everybody through the role of the fund and the
43 subsidy of that fund relative to the Department's budget so people have an



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1 understanding of that interplay and why, even though it looks like an increase, it actually
2 turns out to be a decrease in the overall funding for the Planning Department.

3
4 Marlene Michaelson,

5 My pleasure. The Planning Department request included a \$2.2 million transfer from the
6 Administration Fund to the Special Revenue Fund and as the Chair indicated, a Special
7 Revenue Fund is not quite like an Enterprise Fund. In an Enterprise Fund, you assume
8 that in every given year you have enough revenues to cover costs. In a Special
9 Revenue Fund it's assumed that you generally do or can cover a significant percentage,
10 and particularly, with Special Revenues, I think it was always anticipated that there
11 would be some years in which development activity would be high and the fund would
12 cover all of its costs and the in off years when development dropped, as in this year,
13 there would be some fiscal problems and a need to draw from the Administration Fund.
14 And that is exactly what was proposed this year. The Executive did not recommend the
15 transfer and so effectively cut \$2.2 million by assuming significant increases in revenues
16 and decreases in expenditures which the Commission believes and I concur and the
17 PHED Committee concur were absolutely unrealistic. You'd basically have to cut about
18 half the staff or increase the revenues by some phenomenal percentage after they've
19 just been increased 300% in the last couple of years. So the impact of this on the
20 development process if you were actually to follow through would be really stifling and
21 problematic in terms of their staffing efforts. The Committee believes that the transfer
22 needs to occur. If you take the transfer, take that and add that to the amount that needs
23 to be funded, the net impact is the rest of the Department, not part of this transfer is a
24 net decrease of almost 6%. And if you, you know, if you assume that somehow you can
25 make this subsidy go away or the transfer go away, then they had a small increase. But
26 with having to fund the transfer, it is a reduction from where they were last year and
27 that's what you heard the Chair refer to. So you'll see beginning on page 7 and going
28 through to page 10, are all the lists of the many reductions they would need to take to
29 get down to that level. And President Knapp, I don't know if you want me to walk
30 through it or if you want to go through it or how you want to handle this point.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Go ahead, if you want to.

34
35 Marlene Michaelson,

36 Okay. I'll give a very, go kind of generally through this and then people can ask
37 questions.

38
39 Council President Knapp,

40 Yeah, walk through a high level, then if we have questions.

41
42 Marlene Michaelson,

43 Right. Okay. So, the first grouping on page 7 is the new initiatives. And so, at the very
44 beginning, you would eliminate any of the new initiatives which are basically the long-



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1 range functional, infrastructure functional plan, the energy and environment plan, and
2 some upgrades to the GIS system. And in particular I'll note on the GIS system, that
3 these upgrades were supposed to follow a strategic plan, but since the strategic plan is
4 not yet done, the Committee felt like the upgrades could be deferred. You'll also see a
5 number of enhancements listed at the top of page 8. And these were improvements to
6 existing programs. And once again, the Committee felt that, or the Commission
7 proposed that if they had to take reductions, these would be the first place to take these
8 reductions. So at the bottom of page 8, \$1.5 million is all the reductions for basically
9 new initiatives or improvements over what they did. Everything that you see beyond that
10 is basically reductions to their base and to their same services and that's where you
11 really do get into impacts on the work program. Beginning on page 9, you have the list
12 of all of the different pieces that are recommending being pulled out. Some of this, the
13 Committee recommends be funded by cable and we'll return to that policy decision in a
14 minute. But there's assorted consulting studies and assistance that's being used
15 generally to work on master plans, growth policy, housing studies, there are reductions
16 in travel, conferences, all kinds of operating support, but as you get down to the bottom
17 of page 9, you'll see the most, some of the most dramatic which is to freeze 11 of the 12
18 current vacancies, to further assume that every one of the positions that takes the
19 retirement incentive, five work years, that none of those would be refilled. And then if
20 you turn the page, on top of that you'll see that they were also proposing to eliminate
21 four work years based on reorganizations that they think will generate efficiencies. And
22 that's probably the one thing here that's, you know, you'd want to take which the
23 Department feels that they believe they can operate more efficiently. And you'll also see
24 on the list on page 10, cutting just about every possible operating expense they could
25 identify. And so the bottom line would be 26.5 less work years than they requested,
26 which is a very significant percentage of the total staffing for the Department. So what
27 the Committee looked at, or asked them to look at, was some options that would restore
28 the key personnel, particularly those working on master plans. And the Committee, Mr.
29 Knapp, do you want me to just keep going on the options on the master plans or stop
30 here because I think that is the fundamental underpinning of the.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 That is the issue.

34
35 Marlene Michaelson,
36 Different funding choices is what the Council wants to do in terms of master plans.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Well, let's walk through the master plan piece quickly because then you begin to see
40 what we tried to look at restoring and I think that provides a context, then see what
41 questions Councilmembers have.

42
43 Marlene Michaelson,



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1 Great. On page 11 is the work program that you approved in October and you see the
2 April 2008 recommended was what was presented to you just a month ago. Under any
3 of the options looked at by the Committee, this master plan schedule would slow down.
4 And I'll turn your attention to pages 36 to 38, circle, I'm sorry, 36 to 38, which describe
5 the three options. And circle 36 would be what they would have to do to the master plan
6 schedule if you went completely down to the Executive recommended target. And this is
7 basically, as you skim through the list, they suspend work on several of the master
8 plans, on I think four different master plans and then delay the delivery date of virtually
9 any master plan that has already not been delivered to the Council. On page 37 is
10 option two. And that restores one-third of the positions that were cut that would be
11 working on master plans. This is option that the Committee is recommending being
12 added to the budget. This option will still continue to suspend work on some plans and
13 delay delivery dates on others but a little bit less drastic. And then option three on circle
14 38 is the one that the Committee suggests be put on the reconciliation list. This option,
15 again, still some delays in master plans, because you don't have the full complement,
16 but one tier less severe than the other ones that you've seen.

17
18 Council President Knapp,

19 And I think the objective of the Committee was, we, the Council in the past has never
20 successfully completed the review of more than four master plans in a given year. So
21 what we tried to lay out was a schedule that would get us between three and four
22 master plans over the next two years. And I think option one, or option two keeps that
23 pace and option three actually makes sure that once we get to the third year we have
24 resources in place to make sure that that cycle continues if I remember the years right.
25 So we don't ever hit a backlog or a time when we don't have master plans being worked
26 on that we can continue to orient and continue to move forward on. So that's where the
27 Committee ended up with option two and then option three is the way to proceed. I see
28 some Council lights. Councilmember Berliner.

29
30 Councilmember Berliner,

31 If staff could walk us through, if there is a distinction between the same services budget
32 and option three. Is there a distinction?

33
34 Marlene Michaelson,

35 Yes, there is.

36
37 Councilmember Berliner,

38 Does option three get us to a same services or no?

39
40 Marlene Michaelson,

41 Well, I think what option three does is it gets you to what I'll call the more realistic same
42 services budget because what, as the Committee looked at the master plan schedule
43 that you see on page 11.



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1 Councilmember Berliner,
2 Yes.

3
4 Marlene Michaelson,
5 Which I think has us getting about seven master plans in the space of 12 or 13 months.

6
7 Councilmember Berliner,
8 Right.

9
10 Marlene Michaelson,
11 And they said there really is no way that we can do that. So we might as well take the
12 cutbacks that put us on a more realistic schedule and I believe that's what option three
13 is.

14
15 Councilmember Berliner,
16 Okay. So, from your perspective, option three is, if you will, use your words, a same
17 services budget, a realistic same services budget.

18
19 Marlene Michaelson,
20 Exactly.

21
22 Councilmember Berliner,
23 But this Council could not absorb seven master plans in one year or in that timeframe,
24 therefore, the modifications now, apart from the master plan modifications, is there any
25 other deviations from a, quote, same services budget and the two-thirds that you have
26 described?

27
28 Marlene Michaelson,
29 Absolutely. Just to go back to this list of reductions, every reduction you see beginning
30 at the top of page 9 is a reduction from same services. So even under the Committee's
31 option three we are cutting back on consulting resources in a lot of area, cutting back on
32 everything from printing costs, travel, conferences, energy bills, subscriptions, supplies,
33 materials, support services, every one of these represents a reduction to same services.
34 I think the Committee felt that given the fiscal year these were reasonable reductions to
35 same services, but that the large cutback in staffing on the master plan program were
36 not reasonable. And that's why they worked to add those in particular back.

37
38 Councilmember Berliner,
39 And with respect to the energy, the environment and energy pieces, I read option three,
40 that would be funded under option three?

41
42 Marlene Michaelson,
43 No, under none of them. And in fact, subsequent to the submission of the budget.



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1 Councilmember Berliner,
2 All right, let me.

3
4 Marlene Michaelson,
5 The Department sort of reshaped its idea of what this should be and indicated that it no
6 longer wanted to do a large plan, but that instead, it's going to undertake a policy
7 framework which under any of the options, it will continue to work on and wrap up by the
8 beginning of the next fiscal year. So that was their decision to reshape this effort.

9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 Thank you.

12
13 Council President Knapp,
14 Okay. Thank you. I see no further questions on that. Thank you. We now move into
15 cable fund transfers. Marlene did a good job, as all of our staff have done, to try and find
16 ways to look for key things that needed to be funded and innovative ways to try and
17 fund them. One of the things that was identified was the use of one-time expenditures
18 which is consistent with the County's policy as it relates to the cable fund and identified
19 a number of things that may be eligible for funding through that mechanism. And so, if
20 you look on the top of page 12, there are five items that have been identified as
21 potentially to be funded through the cable fund because they are one-time expenditures.
22 And so that was the recommendation that came forward from the Committee.

23
24 Marlene Michaelson,
25 Yeah, and if I could just add, the MFP Committee met on Thursday and raised a
26 number of questions, both with the cable office about some of the legal issues related to
27 this. Staff has been working on that. I just want to give you an update that at this
28 moment in time, we feel relatively confident that these funds can be used for other
29 purposes such as these. But because some of this information just came to us this
30 morning and I'm glad Bob is joining me.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Just sprinted up the stairs.

34
35 Marlene Michaelson,
36 We would want to, you know, just a little bit of additional time to cross the Ts and dot the
37 Is. That's on the legal question, not necessarily the policy question which I'm sure you'll
38 want to discuss as well. So that's where we stand on that particular issue and hopefully
39 be getting back to you in the next few days just to have some greater certainty on that.

40
41 Council President Knapp,
42 MFP Committee Chair Trachtenberg.

43
44 Councilmember Trachtenberg,



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1 Well, it would appear that there were a lot of people talking about the cable fund.

2
3 Council President Knapp,
4 Sure.

5
6 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
7 But not necessarily sharing their conversations. Again, that's not said as criticism, but in
8 fact the MFP Committee had decided that in order to honor the commitment, the
9 Council to provide full television coverage for worksessions, that indeed we were going
10 to take approximately 113,000 of funding out of that cable fund to provide that service.
11 So that then raises the question of whether or not indeed the 737,000 is fully available.
12 Obviously as the Chair of the MFP Committee, I would recommend that we certainly
13 take funding from the cable fund and apply it for worksession coverage. That would be
14 the first thing that I would raise. The other thing I would raise is that we did have a
15 conversation within the MFP Committee twice I think last week on the feasibility of using
16 the funds and indeed, from some legal correspondence we received this morning, Mr.
17 Drummer is correct, and Marlene as well, that it would appear that the items that the
18 PHED Committee is looking to fund are not inappropriate, but I would caution that the
19 other piece of advice we got with this is that we would need to document those
20 investments very clearly in order to be able to adhere to the regulations that now stand.
21 And again, this has become a real subject of heated debate because of some recent
22 FCC rulings. So I guess the question at hand, well, it's two-fold. One is, do we fund the
23 coverage of the worksessions? I'm assuming we're going to do that and thereby reduce
24 the amount available to say approximately \$614,000. But the other part of it is, do we
25 want to take that \$614,000 out of the cable fund and earmark it specifically to Park and
26 Planning or just leave it so that at the end of the day, it's actually used for an assortment
27 of items. And I guess I could state that it has been past practice to take that money and
28 actually apply it towards cable-related activity, technology-related activities. I'm not
29 going to throw that in as something that I insist on, but what I do insist on is that we
30 honor our commitment to the television coverage of worksessions.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Okay. I just had a quick question. What is the cable fund reserve right now? What do we
34 have in the cable fund that's.

35
36 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
37 About 2.5 million.

38
39 Marlene Michaelson,
40 Right. And my understanding is that prior to any action by either of the Committees,
41 there were somewhere around \$800,000 available.

42
43 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
44 Right.



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1
2 Marlene Michaelson,
3 Maybe a little bit less than that that would keep the target reserve still in place. And so
4 the concern is that with what the Committee has recommended, the PHED Committee
5 together with what the MFP Committee has recommended, that would take it.

6
7 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
8 Below.

9
10 Marlene Michaelson,
11 Below the reserve. And so, at a minimum, I would think that you would need to adjust
12 some of these expenditures downward so that you don't take it below the reserve target.

13
14 Council President Knapp,
15 Okay. Look at that. Councilmember Ervin.

16
17 Councilmember Ervin,
18 Thank you President Knapp. It was a lively conversation in MFP. And I keep hearing
19 mention of new, what are the new FCC or whatever the?

20
21 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
22 Mr. Drummer.

23
24 Councilmember Ervin,
25 Yes because.

26
27 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
28 We have a letter.

29
30 Councilmember Ervin,
31 Well, that's number one. If you have a letter, it hasn't been shared with the Committee.

32
33 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
34 We just got it.

35
36 Councilmember Ervin,
37 Okay. So if you could respond.

38
39 Bob Drummer,
40 The FCC regulations are with regard to the amount of money that you can charge a
41 cable company, as a general rule, you can only charge them 5% of gross revenues,
42 that's the franchise fee and that's payment in return for rental of the County right-of-
43 ways that they're using. Beyond that, there's an exception, we are allowed to also
44 receive from the cable companies, outside of this 5%, money for capital grants for what



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1 they call PEG Programs. Public Education and Governmental Access. And it's only for
2 capital costs, which is equipment and facilities for PEG Programs. That money that you
3 receive for that has to be used for that. It's restricted to only use for capital expenses
4 related to PEG initiatives. The third component that we have, is we have a settlement
5 agreement from 1998 with the predecessor to Comcast Cable Company where in return
6 for release of liability, we received a payment of \$1.5 million per year increased by the
7 CPI which I believe is now up to \$1.9 million over the life of the franchise which is still
8 ongoing that Comcast has walked into. That money is actually outside of both the 5%
9 and the PEG capital grants. But that money under the settlement agreement needs to
10 be used for PEG support initiatives which can be operating costs in support of the PEG
11 programs. So that's the FCC ruling. If you try and, you know, that you can't charge more
12 than 5% for franchise fee which you can use then for anything. They don't care what
13 you use the 5% for. But if you use any of the money for the exceptions, the PEG capital
14 grants for anything other than PEG capital grants, that reduces the amount you can
15 collect under the 5%. So we still haven't nailed down the numbers.

16
17 Marlene Michaelson,
18 We just received the numbers this morning. And so, in a very quick review, we believe
19 that the revenues that are coming in that are restricted are in fact being used for the
20 restricted purposes. And therefore, that we've met the requirements under the FCC
21 ruling. But that's exactly what we need to confirm so that we can tell you that with
22 certainty.

23
24 Council President Knapp,
25 So before we do anything with any of the expenditures we're going to need to make
26 sure we reconcile that so either the recommendations from the MFP Committee or the
27 PHED Committee, we'll have to clarify that and come back and revisit both of them.

28
29 Marlene Michaelson,
30 Exactly.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Okay.

34
35 Marlene Michaelson,
36 And what I would suggest just in terms of the items that we have listed at the top of
37 page 12 is, first of all, there are two items here, cable programming and web casting,
38 which I think under any circumstances probably should be funded by the cable fund.

39
40 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
41 Right.

42
43 Marlene Michaelson,



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1 The other three categories, the purchase of IT equipment, the document management,
2 and the gross study, I don't know whether the Council at this point wants to say whether
3 it's your intent to try and fund this one way or the other and continue to resolve the
4 source of funding only because you had indicated in the past that these were high-
5 priority. The document imaging is going to make the development review process far
6 more transparent by having everything on line. The growth policy, traffic analyses you
7 specifically asked the Planning Department to do during the growth policy, and then the
8 IT is going to enable them to carry out some of these work assignments. So if at this
9 point the Council feels that these are important things, then we can continue to have the
10 debate about what is the appropriate mechanism to fund it. But at least, you know, have
11 that sense that it's to your intent to see these things funded one way or the other.

12
13 Council President Knapp,

14 No further comments on that so I will take no objection as recommendation that we still
15 think it's important, pending the resolution of our analysis. Okay? Commissioner's
16 Office. The Committee recommendation supports MNCPPC's non-recommended
17 reductions to abolish one position which is currently vacant, freeze a second position,
18 and eliminate increases in operating costs, and as previously stated, transferring the
19 cost of the new cable show to the cable fund. Comments? Sorry, Councilmember Ervin.

20
21 Councilmember Ervin,

22 I have a comment if you'll just indulge me for one second. It was back on the option
23 three to restore two-thirds of the funding. And I needed to ask a question of the
24 Planning Chair. Regarding that item, what would happen to your flexibility if we went
25 ahead with the option three and you got two-thirds of the funding? What would be left
26 out of that? What would you not be able to do? I'm looking at circle 38 right now but it
27 relates to page number 6.

28
29 Royce Hanson,

30 Basically, if we're funded at the level three, that would restore our ability to produce the
31 Wheaton Central Business District plan and White Flint II to the '09 work program. The
32 ones that would not be suspended, the ones that would be suspended would be Battery
33 Lane and Westbard.

34
35 Councilmember Ervin,

36 Can I ask you another question too as it relates to limited master plans because I know
37 you need some flexibility in that regard?

38
39 Royce Hanson,

40 We would have none.

41
42 Councilmember Ervin,

43 You would have none.



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1 Royce Hanson,

2 We would not be able to undertake any limited master plan amendments or any new
3 kind of crisis work without an amendment of the work program which would then delay
4 something in order to take those on. For instance, if we were to do something with the
5 Federal Drug Administration area, Cherry Hill area, we would, that would have to take
6 the place of something else that's in the work program and would delay those that are
7 less far along to undertake that.

8
9 Councilmember Ervin,

10 Well, I'm sure the Committee was aware of that. But I really wanted to raise that as an
11 issue of concern for me particularly in my District as we're advancing a limited master
12 plan I would hope that we would take a look at what would be required to get those
13 done. So I just wanted to bring that to the attention of my colleagues.

14
15 Council President Knapp,

16 Councilmember Berliner.

17
18 Councilmember Berliner,

19 Just a follow-up insofar as the two little master plans that are being delayed happen to
20 be in my District, Westbard and Battery Lane. Staff's observation was that this would be
21 too much for any Council to absorb in the timeframe contemplated in any event. Do you
22 believe that's a reasonable posture for us to take given how many we will be asked to
23 look at?

24
25 Royce Hanson,

26 I'm never a good judge of what is reasonable for the Council. [laughter].

27
28 Councilmember Berliner,

29 Okay. I was trying.

30
31 Council President Knapp,

32 That's a man who's done this before.

33
34 Councilmember Berliner,

35 The Westbard for example, has only been what, 25 years or so.

36
37 Royce Hanson,

38 It's been a long time.

39
40 Councilmember Berliner,

41 It's been a real long time and they're fairly far advanced, my understanding is in having
42 informal conversations and agreements that would make this a little easier for people to
43 absorb.



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1 Royce Hanson,

2 Yeah. I think what we had to look at when we were responding to the PHED Committee
3 on this is, what do we have that's far along? What do we have where there is likely to be
4 a great deal of activity that really needs a new master plan? And we didn't feel that we
5 could responsibly put those, let's say, ahead of the Wheaton Central Business District
6 where there's a great deal of interest in getting that plan revised and updated. We've
7 already done a limited master plan there but clearly, there's a need to get moving on
8 that. And in terms of the work years that would be devoted, it seemed to us that it was
9 more appropriate to devote those work years to get the Wheaton plan done and before
10 you. And I think one of the things that we're trying to do here is concentrate our
11 resources on doing a few things and doing them well and doing them as fast as we can
12 rather than string out a whole bunch of stuff in order to keep some things going. Better
13 to get something done and then start a new one when that one is finished. I don't know,
14 Mr. Stanley may want to comment on this too because he's really worked hard to try to
15 sort out this schedule.

16
17 Councilmember Berliner,

18 Before he does, let me just observe that what I recall from the conversation in PHED
19 Committee when the Battery Lane issue came up was that Battery Lane was going to
20 be our template for how we deal with affordable housing. And that was its critical piece
21 because retaining affordable housing in that community was going to be such a priority.
22 Is my recollection correct with respect to that, that that's its fundamental significance?

23
24 Royce Hanson,

25 I think that was much of the discussion at that time. I think however, that the work that
26 we're doing on the housing element for the general plan which has to be done under
27 state law.

28
29 Councilmember Berliner,

30 Yes.

31
32 Royce Hanson,

33 Will address many of those kinds of issues. And I think our staff's view of the Battery
34 Lane situation is that the likelihood of major changes coming in the short term there are
35 smaller than in some of the other places that we're trying to deal with.

36
37 Councilmember Berliner,

38 And with respect to your capacity to do master limited, excuse me, amended master
39 plans, is this budget going to give you the capacity to do that?

40
41 Royce Hanson,

42 No.

43
44 Councilmember Berliner,



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1 Because as you appreciate and my colleagues appreciate, the concern has been that
2 because we have things like Westbard sitting out there for 25 years and we don't return
3 to them for 25 years, that we have no mechanism to move beyond that and the
4 amendments to master plans were going to provide you that capacity.

5
6 Royce Hanson,
7 Well, that capacity just won't be here. The only way we can do that is to delay
8 something else that's already in the program.

9
10 Marlene Michaelson,
11 I just want to note.

12
13 Royce Hanson,
14 It's an unfortunate trade-off.

15
16 Council President Knapp,
17 I wanted to jump in there too though and just say that one thing. If you look at the plans
18 on circle 38 and these are all master plans that we haven't actually modified the
19 schedule except for potentially delaying some things. But if you look at what is, if we
20 were to go with option three, effectively that gives the Council master plans to consider
21 through the summer of 2010, which will give us actually two more budget cycles to have
22 gone through which hopefully, things will have improved and will give us a little more
23 flexibility to provide additional resources back. But in the interim, will give the ability to
24 kind of, as the Chairman just said, get real things done and move those forward as
25 opposed to trying to spring things along in a partial kind of a way. So this gets us master
26 plans on a regular basis, about every quarter until 2010 and hopefully, we'll have a year
27 and a half between now and then, we will have two additional budgets which will allow
28 us the ability to go back and get some of that flexibility that my colleagues are talking
29 about.

30
31 Marlene Michaelson,
32 I just wanted to note too, on circle 38, which is option three, there is 1.5 work years
33 devoted to limited plan amendments. Now, I don't know if that's enough to do an entire
34 limited plan amendment, but it is, there's something there to keep moving that forward.

35
36 Rollins Stanley,
37 If I could just add to that, we estimate that a site two limited master plan amendment
38 would take about five work years, 500,000 in house, and that would include, that doesn't
39 include about, we're estimating between 150 to \$200,000 worth of traffic analysis that
40 we can't do inside because the transportation staff are busy doing the reviews for PAMR
41 and LATR on the applications we're getting.

42
43 Council President Knapp,
44 Councilmember Leventhal.



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Councilmember Leventhal,

I wanted to say, first of all, regarding Battery Lane, just for the benefit of those who were not on the last Council, there had not been a Battery Lane sector plan before. What, the reason Battery Lane came up on this list was because the Council, the Planning Board and the Council were working on the Woodmont Triangle sector plan which called for substantially increased height and density and it raised a lot of concern among the folks living in the multi-family housing along Battery Lane that they might be affected. And so, by adding Battery Lane to the list, the Council was in effect trying to calm that community that we did not consider Battery Lane to be part of the Woodmont Triangle and that we did not anticipate the kind of upheaval and significant change in the skyline and the density for Battery Lane. I just wanted to make that point. So Battery Lane is not, although it is true that, you know, it's desirable to have a plan for every part of the County, I think the timeframe that we've outlined here should not cause concern for the residents of Battery Lane. We separated them out from Woodmont Triangle on purpose to say, no, you're different, we don't consider you in the same way, and that message has already been sent simply by carving them out. They're not in the Woodmont Triangle sector plan. Generally, I just wanted to say, I approve of the direction that we're going. I appreciate the Chairman's comment that the Planning Board needs to do a few things well, that certainly registers with me and I appreciate that. And I do think it is practical to try and match the resources available to develop master plans and sector plans with the likelihood that the Council will ultimately take up and act on those master plans and sector plans. That seems logical to me. If, you know, we understand the Planning Board may have a backlog but if we end up with a backlog here because the Planning Board is, you know, very, very productive and then we can't act on them, that's not really serving the public well either. Overall, we recognize that we're dealing with, I didn't realize it until I heard Ms. Floreen tell me this morning, that we were dealing with a very tight budget.

Council President Knapp,
Councilmember Floreen.

Councilmember Floreen,

It's always interesting because our recollections of history are different I guess. But I just wanted to say with respect to Battery Lane, Roger, I think it's kind of inexcusable that we haven't been able to get back to that. And it looks like it's going to be delayed. Because it was, as George has described, some of the context, I don't think it was going to be a template for anything, except possibly getting things done more rapidly in a discrete geographical environment, not, you know, Westbark was on its own track, but I think it's just unfortunate because we are leaving that community, George is probably right, they're just as delighted as can be that nothing is happening, but there are some serious problems there that we're just not going to be able to get to. So that's, you know, there's no more to be said.



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1 Council President Knapp,
2 Councilmember Elrich.

3
4 Councilmember Elrich,
5 History is really interesting. I mean, I actually am glad that Battery Lane is off, but
6 because I think that everything I've heard in the discussion of Battery Lane is not in the
7 context of relieving people's anxiety about upheaval and change, it's in fact about, could
8 we possibly obliterate everything's that's there and build a bunch of dense stuff there,
9 almost like everything you said you were trying to avoid. And George, I'm not saying this
10 is what you said, I'm just saying that.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,
13 That's what the Council was trying to suggest we did not want.

14
15 Councilmember Elrich,
16 George, George.

17
18 Councilmember Leventhal,
19 I'm understanding that the residents.

20
21 Councilmember Elrich,
22 I'm not challenging that. I'm saying what I've heard, not from you, but from the pressure
23 on people who say, let's do Battery Lane is not let's do Battery Lane because we're
24 taking the pressure off you and we want this preserved, we didn't mean to do it. It's the
25 exact opposite. The messages I've been sent are, must build massive amounts of stuff
26 here because there's this BRAC relocation and we must put another 4,000 or 5,000
27 housing units here and it's a shame to have all this low-rise stuff there, so I'm not saying
28 you said any of that. I'm just saying that there are different interpretations. I'm not sure,
29 I've been back around Battery Lane, I don't know that the folks at Battery Lane are
30 clamoring for change and massive redevelopment. Maybe people who own the land
31 underneath them are clamoring for change and redevelopment, but I don't think Battery
32 Lane is a community in crisis dying to see itself redevelop. So I'm in no hurry. I'm more
33 than happy to have this thing pushed back for a very long time. I think it will be a
34 significant loss of affordable housing in Battery Lane and it will be very, very hard to
35 replace the number of units that are there under any scenario that people are talking
36 about. The other comment I wanted to make was more generally about being able to do
37 limited master plans or being able to address areas with form based codes, you know,
38 in a smaller segment of a master plan area. I mean, I think that the frustrating thing for
39 me, and I think this is true in the older parts of the County more so than in Rockville
40 Pike where you have got established, dense residential communities up the Pike, you
41 don't have that as you go up I-270, I mean 355. You've got shopping centers. But in
42 Silver Spring and Wheaton, where you've got, you know, residential development that
43 comes right up to the core and we're talking about projects that could significantly redo
44 those cores, it would be a shame to lose the nimbleness, the ability to be able to go



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1 back and look at what we want to do here because this is our last shot to do it. I mean, if
2 everything gets done on the basis of existing Euclidian zoning with no concern for could
3 we actually, if there's going to be a major redevelopment say of Fenton area, if there's
4 going to be a major redevelopment, is this our last shot to get this right? And if we just
5 sit there and wait for every property owner to put in a project for every parcel, we're
6 going to lose that opportunity to get it right. So I'm looking to maintain as much flexibility
7 as we redevelop some of these areas as we can possibly have so we can at least get
8 the design elements and the density and some of the other concerns done the right way
9 this time.

10
11 Rollins Stanley,

12 If I could comment, as someone who lives in one of those buildings, which certainly
13 could have been done better, we have developed the tools in recent months to actually
14 model that kind of thing that you're talking about which is what you do in other places.
15 You model it up on the computer. You see what the impacts are. You do the shadow
16 impacts. We have the ability and it's coming out, in fact, on the Silver Spring green
17 space plan, you'll see some wonderful modeling. If you'd like to see it, we have it
18 available. Which gives us the ability to show people graphically how that can evolve.
19 And you're absolutely right, you can do the form base stuff in a built environment like
20 that if you model it.

21
22 Council President Knapp,
23 Councilmember Leventhal.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,

26 During the period of time, Marlene maybe can help me on this, when the Council was
27 considering the Woodmont sector, the Woodmont Triangle sector plan, there were
28 indeed proposals, substantially to up zone Battery Lane. The Council decided not to
29 consider Battery Lane in the Woodmont Triangle sector plan. The Council decided not
30 to take up proposals to up zone Battery Lane and there was significant discussion at
31 that time about preserving the existing housing stock on Battery Lane and the Council's
32 desire to do that and not to treat Battery Lane in the same manner as the rest of the
33 Woodmont Triangle which was seen as, you know, a once-thriving, somewhat declining
34 area that we wanted to encourage more activity, more retail, more shopping, more
35 residential, more high-rise, but not on Battery Lane. If I've said anything wrong Marlene,
36 please correct me.

37
38 Council President Knapp,

39 No, actually everyone is okay. Okay. [multiple speakers]. All right, now that we have
40 agreement, we'll just continue that straight on through to vote on the budget. Central
41 Administrative Services, okay, Committee recommendation, our recommendation here
42 was to reduce the Central Administrative Services budget by \$601,000. This is that part
43 of the budget that actually funds a portion of the Bi-County agencies or the part that's
44 shared by Montgomery County and Prince George's County. We identified a specific



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1 number which we thought could be absorbed by CAS. And as I understand it, it's not yet
2 been agreed to from the other side, is that correct?

3
4 Marlene Michaelson,
5 That's right. And I'll ask CAS Staff to update us. When the Prince George's County
6 Committee responsible for the review of the MNCPPC budget met, they determined not
7 to take any cuts to Central Administrative Services. I don't know if their full Council has
8 met yet or when they will but Bruce Crawford can provide that update.

9
10 Bruce Crawford,
11 Good afternoon. For the record, Bruce Crawford, Budget Manager for the Commission. I
12 believe they're voting on that tomorrow at their regularly scheduled Council meeting.

13
14 Council President Knapp,
15 So it will come back to us at some point, we're just.

16
17 Marlene Michaelson,
18 Actually, your Bi-County meeting is on Thursday.

19
20 Council President Knapp,
21 Okay.

22
23 Marlene Michaelson,
24 And I just want to remind you that if the two Councils cannot agree, the budget as
25 submitted stands, but normally, you will negotiate back and forth with the Prince
26 George's County Council on all issues effecting both the Park and Planning
27 Commission and WSSC. So between now and Thursday, we'll make that determination.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 Sounds fair. The Committee's recommendation was to modify the Special Revenue
31 Fund to show a decreased subsidy to the Development Revenue Special Revenue
32 Fund based on budget reductions to the Planning Department.

33
34 Marlene Michaelson,
35 And I believe they have that number if you want to hear what that is.

36
37 Council President Knapp,
38 That would be good.

39
40 Marlene Michaelson,
41 If Alison wants to or someone wants to update us as to – .

42
43 Council President Knapp,
44 Good.



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1
2 Alison Davis,

3 The Development Review Fund, we went into it and really truly tried to take it and cut
4 apart since we were taking our whole budget apart anyway, we thought we would throw
5 the Revenue Fund in there. So we looked at it and actually went into what was apropos
6 and appropriate to be charged back as part of the development fees, and our work
7 program has kind of superseded the intent of some of our actions so we actually
8 transferred – with forest conservation inspectors, which are now strictly forest
9 conversation, which had been part of site plan at one point, back into the administration
10 funding, got it out as an inappropriate charge to that Special Revenue Fund and brought
11 that down. In addition, we passed on savings proportionally to our overall reduction in
12 work years funding and in operating expense funding to a tune of about \$200,000 on
13 that. So we have brought the entire transfer down from the \$2.2 million figure down to
14 \$1.772 million. We have also reduced our expectation of fees at the same time and
15 have a balanced, what we hope is a balanced Special Revenue Fund now with that
16 transfer.

17
18 Council President Knapp,
19 Okay.

20
21 Alison Davis,
22 So we wouldn't be back to you at the end of '09 asking for a supplemental.

23
24 Council President Knapp,
25 By making this transfer we would, that'd basically address the issue that you raised at
26 the outset, taking the reduction down to 5.6, this would keep it back in the right range.

27
28 Marlene Michaelson,
29 Yeah. Still be significant, but a slight changes.

30
31 Council President Knapp,
32 Right. Right. Back in the positive side. Okay. Seeing no comments on that. That
33 concludes the Planning Department portion. Go ahead.

34
35 Alison Davis,
36 I have one more thing. We are going into, in that fund, we are going into FY09 with no
37 fund balance or no reserve. And this would, we would end up with no reserve again at
38 the end of '09. We are not building any reserves up during this economic time.

39
40 Council President Knapp,
41 Okay.

42
43 Alison Davis,
44 I just wanted to make sure we made that clear.



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1
2 Council President Knapp,
3 Thank you.

4
5 Royce Hanson,
6 The point I just want to emphasize.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 Sure. Royce hit your, turn on your microphone.

10
11 Royce Hanson,
12 Using this kind of a Special Revenue Fund, it is important to over time build up a
13 reserve.

14
15 Council President Knapp,
16 Right.

17
18 Royce Hanson,
19 So as soon as it's possible to do so, we want to begin to budget to build that reserve.
20 Ideally, I think what we ought to be thinking about for the long-term with this is funding
21 all Planning Department activities in the Administration Fund. And then estimating the
22 amount of special revenue that would be received in a given year. And including that as
23 revenue for the Department so that we're trying to get the thing put into an operating
24 framework that recognizes a certain amount of work has to get done. And that one
25 source of revenue will fluctuate based on the business cycle.

26
27 Council President Knapp,
28 Councilmember Berliner.

29
30 Councilmember Berliner,
31 Council President, I just wanted to say, I appreciate your work with respect to the
32 options you put before us. If I understand the Chairman, you could live with option
33 three?

34
35 Royce Hanson,
36 A reluctant yes.

37
38 Councilmember Berliner,
39 And I would just say to the Council President that I know this is going on the
40 reconciliation list, but know that this is one member that would not be comfortable going
41 anything below option three. So as you start trying to put your money together, this
42 would be important to me.

43
44 Council President Knapp,



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1 Duly noted. And I appreciate that feedback. Okay. Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank
2 you Rollins for the Planning Department side and Alison thank you for putting all that
3 together. I appreciate it very much. It's interesting, make an interesting first year for you
4 Rollins.

5
6 Rollins Stanley,
7 Yes. Alison is my new best friend.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,
10 It may just be I'm getting older and my vision is not so good, but I don't, could someone
11 highlight for me the primary differences between the charts on circle 36, circle 37, and
12 circle 38.

13
14 Council President Knapp,
15 Sure.

16
17 Councilmember Leventhal,
18 They seem, what are the major differences? With the Mayor, you know, my good friend
19 the Mayor of Kensington in the audience, you know, I'm zeroing right in on Kensington
20 and it seems to be the same in all three charts, so he's done a great job. Everybody
21 knows that we've got to take care of Kensington. Could we just understand the major
22 things that would be delayed in these different versions?

23
24 Royce Hanson,
25 Go ahead Alison.

26
27 Alison Davis,
28 With option one which is basically the County Executive's recommendation, we are
29 suspending work on Wheaton, White Flint II, slowing a little bit on Kensington but still
30 hoping for the same delivery date, Battery Lane, Westbard, and some changes in
31 delivery date, but still coming in within the same basic calendar year, along with
32 Takoma Langley. With option two, we are restoring parts of Wheaton and restoring
33 White Flint II, speeding up and making sure we are going to deliver Kensington and I
34 think the rest are pretty much the same.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Thank you. Thank you, that's very helpful.

38
39 Alison Davis,
40 Okay.

41
42 Royce Hanson,
43 Wheaton and White Flint II are fully restored in option three.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,
2 Okay. I appreciate the clarification.

3
4 Council President Knapp,
5 Okay. All right. Thank you very much. We now turn to the MNCPPC Park Fund. Just as
6 happy a story. To reach a funding, let's see, start from the beginning.

7
8 Royce Hanson,
9 If you'd like, I can make a couple of summary comments.

10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Yeah, sure.

13
14 Royce Hanson,
15 Here Mr. President. The, we appreciate that members of the PHED Committee have
16 expressed an interest in seeing how close you could come to funding us at the same
17 service level in Parks. The recommendation before you today cuts as much as 6.1
18 million below the same service level unless funds are added at reconciliation. And if
19 finally approved, this reduction, I think it will have devastating effects on the parks
20 system and the citizens of the County. The impacts involve closure of park facilities,
21 reduction to maintenance programs that lead to deterioration of parks in both
22 appearance and state of repair, cancellation of events, increases in fees for park users,
23 and more. It would take about a tenth-of-a-cent increase in the current park tax rate to
24 fund the same services level. Since 2002, the park tax has declined 2.3 cents although
25 the number of parks, acreage, and amenities has dramatically increased thereby
26 stretching services below the required maintenance levels. To put the potential
27 reductions in context, if all reductions are taken to meet the Executive's budget, less the
28 administrative overage, a total of \$11.8 million inclusive of 83 work years is cut from our
29 request. The Park Fund would support 659 work years at that level. Ten years ago in
30 fiscal 99, the Park Fund supported 647 work years. In fiscal '09 at the Executive's level,
31 we will have gained only 12 work years over a 10 year period equating to a 1.8% growth
32 in work years over 10 years. By contrast, our parkland will have grown by 5,000-acres
33 or more than 15%. During this time, we've added 63 parks including 32 developed
34 urban local and recreational parks such as the Glenmont Greenway Urban Park, Kings
35 Crossing local park, and South Germantown Recreational Park. Simplistically, the
36 Department of Park's primary use of its budget is the care and protection of parkland,
37 park facilities, and natural and cultural resources. At 15% growth in land and 1.8%
38 growth in work years leaves no choice but a major reduction in services in protection of
39 these valuable resources. Clearly, impacts of funding at the Executive's level or below
40 will be seen, felt, and endured by park users and residents of the County. For a County
41 that wants to remain environmentally progressive, this is going to have a devastating
42 effect to protected resources. We manage 10% of the County's land including stream
43 valley and conservation parks which are a major contributor to a green future. We very



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1 much hope that a way can be found to fund most of the non-recommended reductions
2 to achieve the same services budget. If not, we'll enjoy the consequences.

3
4 Council President Knapp,
5 Okay. Thank you very much. Sure. Councilmember Berliner.

6
7 Councilmember Berliner,
8 Can you, can staff perhaps share, I'm not familiar with the park tax and its role in this
9 conversation if any, could you respond to.

10
11 Marlene Michaelson,
12 Yeah. My recommendation to you at this point is to focus on the expenditures. We
13 basically look at the tax rates across all the different sources that we have. So it's
14 generally not, our debate is what should we spend for this agency. When we are
15 completely done with expenditures is when we look at the different tax rates. And
16 generally, the view is to look at what is the impact on taxpayers across all of the
17 different taxes and certainly all the ones that are not related to a service, let's say for
18 example, like the energy bill. So while the agency is viewing its own tax, the Council's
19 analysis is usually, how are all the taxes rising? And that's looked at simultaneously
20 because for your average citizen, they're not going to really care whether it's their
21 property tax or their park tax, they're just going to see the total tax bill.

22
23 Council President Knapp,
24 And it all rolls. [multiple speakers]. And everybody jumps in.

25
26 Councilmember Berliner,
27 My colleague advises me that it is subsumed within the property tax.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 Right.

31
32 Marlene Michaelson,
33 Right., it's, right, exactly. It's not a separate line item on the, oh, actually, I'm sorry, I
34 take it back, it is a separate line item.

35
36 Council President Knapp,
37 It is a line item.

38
39 Marlene Michaelson,
40 It is a line item on the bill that they pay. But I guess the best thing I can say, is that if you
41 determine the right expenditures for each agency at this point and what you want the
42 total is, then at the end of the process is generally when you're going to look at how you
43 raise the different revenues to get there. And there are a number of different options to
44 achieve those same expenditures. So again, I would say at this point, focus first on what



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1 you think the total expenditures should be and then you will get to the mix of taxes and
2 revenue sources that are going to get you there.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,
5 Thank you.

6
7 Council President Knapp,
8 Does that clarify your question? Councilmember Leventhal and then Councilmember
9 Floreen.

10
11 Councilmember Leventhal,
12 Well, I think I understand the train of Mr. Berliner's thought because it was based on
13 what the Chairman said and I also understand Ms. Michaelson's answer. But we do
14 appreciate it when Councilmembers need information, if we can have things clarified for
15 us.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 Sure.

19
20 Councilmember Leventhal,
21 So, what tends to happen with a lot of these agency budgets, you know, we get into
22 these great disputes about should the Rec Department do a program or should the
23 school system do a program because for the Directors of those agencies, it matters a
24 great deal whether it comes out of their budget. For us sitting here, it matters not at all.
25 One dollar from this page of the budget or one dollar from another page of the budget.
26 You know, it doesn't much matter. So what you will hear from Park and Planning is they
27 view the park tax as their revenue stream, but in fact, well, it's intended to be, you will
28 hear the same thing about the fire tax.

29
30 Council President Knapp,
31 No, exactly. We'll have that discussion.

32
33 Councilmember Leventhal,
34 And we will have that discussion. But in fact, they don't always match. And we have
35 money going in and we have money going out and we're going to raise taxes and we
36 might raise the park tax, we might raise the property tax. To, you know, our constituents
37 it's going to feel just like a tax increase however we do it.

38
39 Council President Knapp,
40 Councilmember Floreen.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,
43 Well, I just want to say, in Roger's defense, I think it's a very fair, it's a fair question on
44 all this because, and we did talk about this issue in Committee, it's part of the ad



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1 valorem, basically, so it's part of the charter limit stuff and all that. But I do believe that
2 what we did discover is that the park tax has been decreased in order to accommodate
3 other, you know, everything else we're doing.

4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 Sure.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 And that is part of the math that Mr. Hanson is forced to face. But I do think, you know,
10 as George has said, I think it's an important question for us to appreciate as well.
11 Because it is a line item on the budget, I mean on the tax bill that our residents see. And
12 it's treated differently for the purposes of revenue, as Marlene has said, for revenue
13 generation, but not the way we end up having to think at the end of the day. But it is
14 important to understand, there is a negative impact on them with respect to how their
15 tax has been handled.

16
17 Royce Hanson,
18 That's correct because our revenue, or our tax supported revenue, comes solely from
19 the property tax. And also just keep in mind that the Metropolitan District Tax, which is
20 the park tax does not cover the entire County. Because municipalities that have their
21 own park systems are excluded from it.

22
23 Council President Knapp,
24 Councilmember Berliner.

25
26 Councilmember Berliner,
27 Just one final observation. I do appreciate the clarification and I would just say that
28 given the support that our community has for parks, I mean, it's consistently said, parks
29 are among the most important things that we could possibly fund, if we are funding our
30 parks out of property tax increase as opposed to out of the park dollars, I would think
31 that we would be better served, quite frankly, in identifying it as an increase in the park
32 fees because people say, I love my parks and if this is necessary for parks. Whereas
33 opposed on the property tax, they don't know exactly where the dollars are going. So I
34 do think in the context of what this Department is doing and the value our constituents
35 place on it that there is an advantage as opposed to a disadvantage to funding this
36 extra increment if we conclude an extra increment is necessary out of the park tax.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Councilmember Leventhal.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 Well, again, I follow Mr. Berliner's train of thought and I think it's a natural train of
43 thought based on what the Chairman said, but I would just reply that the customer
44 satisfaction survey earlier this year was very, very clear, that overwhelmingly,



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1 Montgomery County residents want to pay less taxes and they want to receive more
2 services both.

3
4 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
5 And we all have anecdotal experiences for that.

6
7 Council President Knapp,
8 Yes, we do. Okay.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 Data was incontrovertible.

12
13 Council President Knapp,
14 Okay. We are now on top of page 15. So the Committee recommendation, in summary,
15 was that we recommend reduction to the Park Fund totaling \$11,863,333 from the
16 request due to what the Committee perceives in addition to what the Chair has already
17 indicated, the severe impact on park operations, the Committee recommends putting
18 \$6,106,130 on the reconciliation list. If you go to circles 91 through 93, it outlines all of
19 the various non-recommended reductions that exist. It is a fairly lengthy and numerous
20 list. Marlene, you actually did a pretty good job of very briefly doing a similar overview of
21 the Planning side. Could you maybe just kind of touch on the highlights as we go
22 through that and then we can walk through the tiers of funding that we looked at.

23
24 Marlene Michaelson,
25 Sure. The Department did put this in different tiers to try and indicate what their priorities
26 are. On circle 90, you can see this first grouping is the ones that they feel would have
27 the least impact, the Gasby changes, the, eliminating all new initiatives and base budget
28 improvements and also increasing their lapse. And then as you move on to page 91,
29 you get to a point where you start having, I'm sorry, page 92, you start cutting right into
30 the same services budget. And so the first tier or the lowest priority for restoration
31 eliminates technology projects, training, a support at different festivals, and the
32 replacement of employees that take the retirement incentive, and also reductions to
33 professional services. And also within that same tier is reduction in service delivery and
34 policing, planting programs, and 5% reduction in the managed open space. I do want to
35 highlight here that we've, the Committee is recommending, listing the Wisconsin Place
36 project separately. I know you discussed that this morning as you did the Recreation
37 budget. We just want to make sure that the funding for this project be considered
38 simultaneously with whatever you do with the funding for the Recreation side of it. So
39 right now, because it was neither in the Executive or Park and Planning budget request,
40 it is on the reconciliation list as is the funding in the Rec Department and when you
41 come back to it, you'll consider those two simultaneously. And then moving on to tier
42 two, you're now below same services, but the Committee, this is where the Committee
43 recommends that there be restorations on the reconciliation list. Included at the tier two
44 level of reductions would be to close, transfer, or demolish 23 park activity buildings,



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1 reduce non-native invasive plant species, and absorb a whole range of other reductions
2 in different operating costs, additional lapse, and also off-setting cuts to what they
3 originally proposed was to cut out the MCPS ball fields and the Committee did not
4 accept that, said you had to continue maintenance of the ball fields. But you can see on
5 what would be line 41, a variety of assorted different impacts and closures. And the
6 Committee is recommending that this be put on the reconciliation list. Similarly, the tier
7 four is another range of reductions and this is, when the Committee was trying to
8 balance the whole budget, it did not feel it could take the cuts from the Administration
9 Fund to get down to the Executive's level. So \$849,000, which should have been
10 absorbed by the Administration Fund, they moved over as a cut to the Park Fund. That
11 would be the highest priority for restoring because that actually takes the Park Fund
12 below the Executive level of funding. If that cut were taken, it would result in closure of
13 portions of Brookside Gardens, the Ag History Farm Park, and other facilities, and a cut
14 to a range of different programs and reduction in force, so that would be the highest
15 priority for restoration. And then if you go back to page 15 of the memo, you can see
16 that summarized in the different tiers. Tier, again, the highest tier number being the,
17 also the highest, or the greatest priority for restoration, tier five, would be the first priority
18 on the reconciliation list, followed by tier four, tier three, and then the Committee wanted
19 to go up to tier two.

20
21 Royce Hanson,
22 Just one thing, couple of things I'd point out to you that are at various places on the
23 reconciliation list. In the funding, for instance, if Wisconsin Place opening is delayed into
24 fiscal year '10, instead of '09, that leaves room for not, that's equivalent to some of the
25 reductions that would otherwise have to be taken in service levels for existing parks and
26 park activities. Similarly, if the maintenance of other's fields, the school fields is left in
27 the budget, in our budget, that's the equivalent of discontinuing support for a number of
28 other activities.

29
30 Council President Knapp,
31 Do nothing else. Right.

32
33 Royce Hanson,
34 If you do nothing else. And it, we had talked with the Committee, and I think our staff is
35 still looking to see if conceivably the ball field maintenance money could be parked
36 elsewhere, it is something that needs to be done.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 It is.

40
41 Royce Hanson,
42 We're not arguing about that.

43
44 Council President Knapp,



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1 Yeah, and we raised that this morning with the.
2
3 Royce Hanson,
4 But it really.
5
6 Council President Knapp,
7 Yep, -- Community Use of Public Facilities to understand that piece of it as well and so
8 this will be an issue that will come back to.
9
10 Royce Hanson,
11 Yeah, it really should be something we're charging back somebody for doing.
12
13 Council President Knapp,
14 We actually need to establish that policy. So. Councilmember Leventhal.
15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 Is OMB present?
18
19 Royce Hanson,
20 Is what?
21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 OMB.
24
25 Unidentified
26 Yes.
27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Okay. Could I just ask, I'm sorry, I don't recall your name, I know we.
30
31 Alex Espinosa,
32 Alex Espinosa.
33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Mr. Espinosa, do you concur with these, I'm looking here at the bottom of tier three, do
36 you concur that all of these cuts, did you analyze that these cuts would be necessary,
37 the closing of the Wheaton Ice Rink for example, the discontinuation of support of
38 Second Chance Wildlife Center, Red Wing Foundation, Waters House, Bethesda-Chevy
39 Chase Co-op, and others? Did OMB anticipate that that would be the effect of the
40 County Executive's recommendations?
41
42 Alex Espinosa,



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1 We didn't see a specific list of reductions at the time we submitted the budget, in fact,
2 we didn't make any specific reductions ourselves, we just made a recommendation in
3 an aggregate allocation to the Park.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,
6 Just gave them a number?

7
8 Alex Espinosa,
9 Yes. Consistent.

10
11 Councilmember Leventhal,
12 You have no analysis of the impact.

13
14 Alex Espinosa,
15 Consistent with the other agencies, schools, and the College as well.

16
17 Councilmember Leventhal,
18 And the number was picked how then, if there was not a program analysis of what the
19 effect of the reduction would be? How do you choose the right number? How do you
20 know it was this number and not some other number?

21
22 Alex Espinosa,
23 In the sense, in the context of balancing the overall budget and determining an
24 allocation that would be reasonable and appropriate for each County agency, so for
25 example, with Park and Planning, their overall tax supported increase was 4.5%
26 compared to 4% for schools and 1.6% for Montgomery County Government.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 So it's purely a formula driven exercise, not, no real program analysis of any kind.

30
31 Alex Espinosa,
32 Not an in depth program analysis with specific recommendations, that's correct.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Thank you.

36
37 Council President Knapp,
38 Councilmember Berliner.

39
40 Councilmember Berliner,
41 Dr. Hanson, do you have anybody here that can speak on the Wisconsin Place issue
42 definitively? Here's my question. I appreciate and I'm sorry to have to repeat some of
43 the conversation we had earlier but my colleague, Councilmember Leventhal for one,
44 didn't understand the history with respect to Wisconsin Place, let me briefly describe it



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1 and then I'll turn to my question. This was a result of a community amenity that was
2 fought for by the Friendship Heights community as a function of an optional
3 development that vastly increased density in the Friendship Heights area and this was
4 what the community got as a function of that.

5
6 Royce Hanson,
7 This was a requirement placed in the master plan.

8
9 Councilmember Berliner,
10 A requirement in the master plan.

11
12 Royce Hanson,
13 And then.

14
15 Councilmember Berliner,
16 Which the developer is now.

17
18 Royce Hanson,
19 And then carried out through the subdivision and site plan process.

20
21 Councilmember Berliner,
22 The developer has now expended over \$5 million in providing it. It will be available as of
23 October of this year. And the only piece the County has to do is fit it out and do the
24 ongoing Rec Department function. So out of a five point something million dollar project,
25 we have \$400,000 left. And this was the deal for the additional density. So the notion
26 that we wouldn't fulfill our end of the deal after the developer has done it and the
27 community want it is something that people are saying they're really uncomfortable with.
28 I have talked with members of the community about the, what could be done with
29 respect to the '09 budget, and my question to you is as follows, right now it's scheduled
30 for May '09 to open. If we were to push this off as late as October of '09, would you be
31 able to do the fit-out starting July 1, so you would have no '09 dollars, but everything
32 would be pushed into '10, would you be able to start in July and have this thing up and
33 running in October? Can you do your fit-out in those three months?

34
35 Mike Riley,
36 I would say yes. I think that's, with all the lead time to prepare, I think that would be
37 reasonable. It would be an aggressive goal to have it done in three months, but I think it
38 could be done. We could let our contracts in advance, just be ready to go on July 1 and
39 execute them.

40
41 Councilmember Berliner,
42 I'm certainly prepared to consider that in light of the constraints that we have. I've
43 discussed that possibility, but moving beyond October 1 and having a firm
44 understanding that it would open, it's an indoor recreational activity, it is something that



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1 obviously will take, will be used more in the fall and winter than it would otherwise be in
2 the summer. And if we're not ready in the summer for, as it sounds now we wouldn't be,
3 this might be something that I could sell, and to the extent to which it could help us in
4 our budget deliberations, I'd be prepared to look at it. Thank you.

5
6 Council President Knapp,

7 Thank you Councilmember Berliner. Okay. That addresses both the tiers or initiatives
8 that the Council, that the Committee recommended for the reconciliation list, and also
9 the Wisconsin Place Community Recreation Center. I see no further comments there.
10 Performance measures, we actually had a lengthy discussion in two of our
11 worksessions as to Parks Department actually really putting in place some significant
12 performance measures and really giving us some sense of, not just numbers of what
13 we're spending money on, but really what the result of those resources are that are
14 being spent. And so we look forward to, over the course of the next year, really seeing
15 the manifestation of the efforts that you've put into that so far and it should really help
16 our funding as we move forward, I think, our funding decisions. Sure. Council Vice-
17 President Andrews.

18
19 Councilmember Andrews,

20 Thank you. Yeah, I wanted to just comment that I think this is an important step forward.
21 It is a good thing to know what people think of the fields in the County and we know that
22 there's been a lot of room for improvement but we haven't had a formal evaluation
23 program for it and I think that's good to see that this will get underway this fall and that
24 the Department can then be responsive to the reactions it gets from different users, so I
25 think that's excellent. I do have a question about the next item, the Enterprise Fund, and
26 I see that the indoor tennis is expected to return to profitability after closures this year
27 caused a decrease in revenues, and indoor tennis has traditionally been one of the few,
28 well, has been a money maker for the Enterprise Fund. What kind of, what kind of
29 focus, what kind of lessons are being learned from the management from some of the
30 renovations that have gone on with regard to indoor tennis because?

31
32 Royce Hanson,

33 Well, the first one is not to try to put up a skin on a windy day.

34
35 Councilmember Andrews,
36 Yeah.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 That's a good one.

40
41 Councilmember Floreen,
42 That's very good.

43
44 Councilmember Andrews,



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1 You know, my concern is, I understand that it happened twice in terms of the problem of
2 the skin being ripped off, it wasn't completely on. So, I am confident that won't happen
3 again but I regret that, you know, it happened more than once here because it certainly
4 delayed to some degree the opening of the facility and cost the Enterprise Fund some
5 money during the season which indoor tennis is at its peak. So I hope we never see that
6 again and that indoor tennis.

7
8 Royce Hanson,
9 You have got a lot of company in that hope.

10
11 Councilmember Andrews,
12 Okay. And on a positive note, I want to. Go ahead.

13
14 Mary Bradford,
15 I just want to point out that this isn't like, for those who are not familiar with Wheaton
16 Tennis, it's not one of these inflatable bubbles that you may have seen other places. It
17 is an actual sort of skin over the top of a structure and until it is fully installed it's
18 unstable.

19
20 Councilmember Andrews,
21 Right.

22
23 Mary Bradford,
24 Thought to be cheaper.

25
26 Councilmember Andrews,
27 Okay. On a positive note, I want to commend the Parks Department for putting together
28 a great event last week where the Cabin John Indoor Tennis Facility was renamed as
29 the Pauline Betts Addie Tennis Center and it was a tremendous event. Billy Jean King
30 came in to help dedicate the new facility, renamed facility, and Pauline Betts Addie was
31 appropriately honored, former world number one, and Parks Department did a very nice
32 job and there was a big public turn out to help. And so, good job.

33
34 Royce Hanson,
35 We were delighted to have the Head of the Council Tennis Caucus.

36
37 Councilmember Andrews,
38 It was a pleasure to be there.

39
40 Council President Knapp,
41 Thank you for representing us, Mr. Andrews. As you turn to the Enterprise Fund, as
42 we've begun the discussion, the FY09 budget projects overall fund revenue, over
43 expenditures of \$598,700 but this is a gain based on an assumed subsidy of nearly \$1.2



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1 million from the Park Fund which is approximately double the FY08 subsidy and we will
2 talk about that as we get, turn further back. We looked at.

3
4 Royce Hanson,
5 Mr. President, if you want to go back one other thing.

6
7 Council President Knapp,
8 Sure.

9
10 Royce Hanson,
11 That I know the PHED Committee paid some attention to but I just thought it important
12 to point out to the full Council that, as you know, there has been a lot of discussion of
13 the park activity buildings that are, I guess best described as much loved and under
14 used that we have and the cost for sustaining those for another year is about \$430,000.
15 We had hoped to spend this year trying to work on the programming of those buildings,
16 bringing some of them back a little bit, however, the cost of maintaining them is very
17 substantial and they are not a part of the core program of the Department. So, they are
18 highly controversial but also budgetarily vulnerable.

19
20 Mary Bradford,
21 When we came to you before, we had talked about a marketing program and getting out
22 there and getting the use figures up for them. That was in the new initiatives that are
23 completely off the table, that we're not even going to be able to touch, if we are
24 struggling to get to same services let alone that initiative. So, that's a really unfortunate
25 casualty of this budget cycle and we do apologize to those communities but we did say
26 that we would try to do that, but it doesn't look like we'll really be able to mount the kind
27 of effort we thought we could.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 I think the Committee agrees with that as well. Councilmember Berliner.

31
32 Councilmember Berliner,
33 Just an observation. I know that once upon a time there was a rather aggressive start to
34 shedding these beloved and underutilized facilities and I will say, they are beloved and
35 they do provide a sense of community in a climate in which community is harder and
36 harder to hold onto and I am sorry that you won't be able to market these facilities and
37 appreciated the willingness of your Parks Department to back off the fairly aggressive
38 move to send the signal to these communities that they were going to be torn down or
39 otherwise eliminated. Because they are very important to these communities, so I know
40 that you have found out and yet, they are underutilized and we have got to find our way
41 through this.

42
43 Mary Bradford,



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1 One of the categories on the Park activities buildings, of course, includes transfer and
2 maybe there's a possibility that a lot of them could be saved by transferring to an
3 organization that would be willing to undertake that kind of care that they need.

4
5 Councilmember Berliner,
6 Thank you.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 If you look at the Enterprise Fund on page 18, it shows where we have been successful
10 in making money, where we have not been quite as successful, Mr. Andrews already
11 indicated that with the indoor tennis we will soon be back in the black column. There are
12 issues as it relates to the ice rinks, although a significant amount of that as was
13 discussed last week relates to dramatic increase in utility bills which has a significant
14 impact on its overall profitability. Nevertheless the Committee was recommending
15 undertaking management of the ice rinks just to determine where there are
16 opportunities to reduce expenditures or increase revenue, and we heard from the Parks
17 folks that there are activities, essentially profit making, or revenue generating activities
18 that can be undertaken in similarly equipped facilities that we just don't do here but
19 could be looked at at some point in the future to try and figure out how to increase
20 revenue there as well. And I think that's something the Committee was interested in.
21 We, staff recommended doing this management on it, similar to one that we did with the
22 golf courses and we had suggested that perhaps OLO be able to do it and we
23 understand here that OLO may in fact be able to do it, so we will look at that as a part of
24 the OLO work program coming up later this year. I see no, oh, Councilmember
25 Leventhal.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,
28 The golf courses, they are still in the Enterprise Fund even though they are managed by
29 the Revenue Authority now, so they are listed here although we're not talking about
30 them today.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Yeah, they're on the top.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 They are on the table, yeah. Page 18. I am just trying to understand what is before us
37 now. So, they are still owned by Park and Planning, they're managed by the Revenue
38 Authority, and, I am not understanding the math here. We are thinking we are going to
39 do, on the golf courses, are we going to talk about Revenue Authority later Mr.
40 President?

41
42 Council President Knapp,
43 We get to Revenue Authority under whose budget? Under.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,
2 Probably MFP. So that comes later. So we will talk about that when it comes up. Okay,
3 that's fine. So, it is still part of the Enterprise Fund but.

4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 Well, let's get clarification.

7
8 Karen Warnick,
9 Karen Warnick, I'm the Operations Manager for.

10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Just to make sure everyone is on the same page.

13
14 Karen Warnick,
15 The golf courses, we still have debt service in the Little Bennett Golf Course, so that's
16 part of our expense shown here, the Revenue Authority does cover most of that debt
17 service and so that's the off-set. We also have the golf course at the South Germantown
18 Driving Range which is a concession operation but it also runs through the Enterprise
19 Fund. So those are the golf course operations that are shown under Enterprise in the
20 golf courses.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 Okay. I am just interested, you know, this is an opportunity to go to school on how
24 County government works. We benefit from going through these items in the budget.

25
26 Council President Knapp,
27 Yep.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 This first line on page 18, golf courses, does that include the golf courses that are
31 managed by the Revenue Authority or does it not? It does not. Thank you, that's all I
32 need to know.

33
34 Karen Warnick,
35 It includes them from the standpoint that we get revenue from them. We get, you know,
36 they pay for our debt service. So they give us revenue, we pay our debt service in the
37 Little Bennett Golf Course, that's why they are included here.

38
39 Councilmember Leventhal,
40 Yes.

41
42 Karen Warnick,
43 It is just.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,
2 But this number, that the golf courses lost 153,600 in the current fiscal year.

3
4 Karen Warnick,
5 No, that does not.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 They're projected to make 41,600 in the coming fiscal year. That does not represent the
9 entire golf course world.

10
11 Karen Warnick,
12 No, no, no.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Okay.

16
17 Karen Warnick,
18 Just our leased portion.

19
20 Councilmember Leventhal,
21 Okay, and so when we talk about the Enterprise Fund here on page 18, we are talking
22 about the Enterprise Fund that is managed by the Parks Division of Park and Planning.

23
24 Karen Warnick,
25 Yes.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,
28 And the golf courses that are now managed by the Revenue Authority is no longer part
29 of that.

30
31 Unidentified
32 Right.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Thank you, that's all I wanted to know.

36
37 Marlene Michaelson,
38 Although, just as clarification.

39
40 Council President Knapp,
41 Nothing's ever as clear as it first appears.

42
43 Marlene Michaelson,



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1 Yeah, the Parks Department did have some obligation if terms of one, it turned over
2 those golf courses, it was making some repairs where there were deficiencies. And I
3 believe that is also included in this number is where they had to continue to fix things
4 that were wrong in the golf courses.

5
6 Council President Knapp,

7 I see no further questions there. Okay. On page 19, you see the Enterprise Fund
8 subsidy. The Committee supports the Executive recommendation to keep the Enterprise
9 subsidy at the same level which would neither drain the fund reserve nor begin to build
10 it back up. Which was a policy issue that we discussed that generally the goal is when
11 the fund reserve has been brought down below what the policies indicated that there at
12 least should be a strategy or method for trying to get it back up to that level. I think we
13 recognize that while we would like to do that, given the fiscal constraints this year, the
14 fact that we're keeping it effectively evenly funded from one year to the next was
15 probably as good as we are going to be able to get to. Is that fair? Advanced Land
16 Acquisition revolving fund. The Committee supports the ALARF as submitted and will
17 schedule discussion after budget regarding the use of the large fund balance which is
18 over \$30 million, primarily as a result of repayment from acquisitions as it relates to the
19 ICC and so there are a lot of resources there that we will need to readdress.

20 Councilmember Ervin.

21
22 Councilmember Ervin,

23 Thank you very much. I have a question on ALARF. What are the other public uses, in
24 the first paragraph it says, park, roads, school sites, and other public uses, what are
25 they, that we can use that money for?

26
27 Royce Hanson,

28 Any public facility that is a County public facility that, or state for that matter, that is
29 identified on a master plan but is not in the CIP. For instance, if we had identified in a
30 master plan, let's say a site for a fire station, that was not in the CIP yet, but we found
31 that the property was about to be sold to a private party, ALARF could step in and
32 acquire that site with ALARF funds and then when the fire department is ready to get
33 them, put the money in the CIP, it would put in money for acquisition, it would repay the
34 ALARF fund with interest for that site. That's basically the way the fund works. That we
35 use the fund to acquire in advance of CIP funding sites that are identified on master
36 plans or the purpose that the master plan recommends.

37
38 Councilmember Ervin,

39 So if the master plan does not recommend it then you cannot use the fund.

40
41 Royce Hanson,

42 That's right, you can't use ALARF.

43
44 Councilmember Ervin,



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1 Okay.

2
3 Council President Knapp,
4 Councilmember Leventhal.

5
6 Councilmember Leventhal,
7 Well, I just want to say, I am looking forward to this discussion in your Committee
8 Chairman Knapp and hope that we can arrange the schedule in such a way that I might
9 be able to participate even though I'm not a member of the PHED Committee. There is
10 a very large fund balance here and Ms. Praisner and I discussed a number of times our
11 surprise sometimes at some of the staff recommendations for land acquisition and we
12 found there is more than one side to every story, things that, you know, may seem like a
13 good idea at the time generate, you know, repercussions and so, and there is multiple
14 examples. So I do think that we will benefit from a very thoughtful discussion about how
15 these funds are spent and they should not be spent in a haphazard way. It's a great
16 resource.

17
18 Council President Knapp,
19 It is.

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,
22 I have discussed just very recently with Marlene to get myself better educated about
23 how the fund works, you know, my own sense, and I don't want to get into a
24 conversation now that we are going to have later, but my own sense is that there ought
25 to be great congruence with this surplus that we have now because of the state
26 repayment on the ICC with our plans for protecting the Agricultural Reserve and
27 potentially with implementing a building lot termination program. So, these are things we
28 can, I look forward to discussion of and I'm interested in participating in that discussion.

29
30 Council President Knapp,
31 That was kind of where our preliminary conversation went as well so we look forward to
32 that and we'll try to make sure that you join us. We always like to have guests at our
33 Committee meetings. Okay. I see no more, additional questions there. The Property
34 Management Fund, the Committee recommends approval of the Property Management
35 Fund as submitted but recognizes that next year's budget include charge backs for
36 costs incurred by the Park Fund. And then the Internal Service Funds, we approve that
37 as submitted. That effectively wraps up the Parks and Planning. Yes. Are there any
38 further questions? Strategic plan.

39
40 Marlene Michaelson,
41 Yes, the addendum. [inaudible]. In the, the Executive sent forward budget amendments
42 which included a recommendation to phase, fund phase two of the GIS strategic plan.
43 Last year the Council agreed that there needed to be a new GIS strategic plan but just
44 due to fiscal concerns decided to spread it over two years. Last year the cable fund was



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1 actually used to pay part one of the GIS strategic plan, this year the Executive has
2 recommended using the interagency technology fund to fund phase two which is the
3 continuation and I would recommend approval as did the PHED Committee when the
4 Committee discussed it.

5
6 Council President Knapp,
7 I see no comments. Great. I just wanted to thank Park and Planning. I know this hasn't
8 been easy and I don't think any of us think that what we're putting out here, even if we
9 can fulfill everything that we put on reconciliation is going to make next year a great
10 year, but it is our hope that we will continue to work together and identify resources as
11 necessary. But it will allow us to at least refocus and really make sure we are honing in
12 on those things that need to get done and we look forward to working with you and
13 making sure that we can be as successful as we possibly can for the residents of our
14 community. So thank you.

15
16 Royce Hanson,
17 We are looking forward to a happy reconciliation.

18
19 Council President Knapp,
20 We appreciate that. And I just wanted to, before we adjourn today, I wanted to thank my
21 colleague Councilmember Elrich for pinch hitting for me this morning. I had to go give a
22 speech and so he managed, he walked us through the Recreation Department budget
23 and so I thank him very much for that.

24
25 Councilmember Andrews,
26 He did a good job.

27
28 Council President Knapp,
29 And we will meet back here tomorrow morning at, let's see.

30
31 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
32 9:30.

33
34 Council President Knapp,
35 Tomorrow morning at 9:30. Although, I will let my colleagues know, it may be possible
36 to start our worksessions later in the week, a little bit later in the morning, so give a little
37 more flexibility to people's schedules. So we are looking into that right now.

38
39 Councilmember Floreen,
40 Let us know that.

41
42 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
43 Yes, let us know.

